

'Boreal Beauty' by Bob Bors

Available in 2017



Figure 1. Boreal Beauty fruits are oval or heart shaped. Berries are thick, firm and meaty. Plant structure and berry characteristics make them ideally suited for mechanical harvesting. The spoon in this photo is 3.5 cm wide. If this article is printed on 8 ½ x 11 paper actual berry size can be seen.

'Boreal Beauty' is an exciting new haskap that opens up an entirely new season for Haskap growers: It had fruit fully ripe a month after most varieties were finished in 2014! Its plant and berry characteristics fit all categories that I've been looking for in haskap suitable for mechanical harvesting. Berries are heavy, firm, mostly oval, and hold onto branches with just the right amount of force and taste great. Bushes are strong and upright growers and show no signs of mildew and are very productive. Almost all our large-fruited haskap cause branches to bend over, but not 'Boreal Beauty', her branches remain strong and upright. I only wish I had early and mid-season ripening versions of this variety! I suppose the occasional tip on some of the berries, which make many of the largest berries look like a heart, could be a disadvantage, but that could be a charming aspect too for fresh sales. Put the heart shape ones on top of the package. Its berries are almost as heavy as 'Boreal Blizzard' berries although they are only 2/3rds as long. But they are considerably thicker.



Figure 2. 'Boreal Beauty' branches full of fruit.

This variety needs a bit more observation and we will have full details next growing season, well before it becomes available to the public in 2017. It was found with great looking and tasting berries in the last few days of July. The berries were great through mid-August but we don't know exactly when they started to taste good. It had been tagged earlier during 'normal' ripening season as "Not ripe yet, check later, looks good". We also need to know when it blooms and whether any of our existing varieties are compatible with it for pollination. Commonly, late ripening plants are also late blooming plants. I'm hoping and am 75% confident that it will be a companion to 'Boreal Blizzard' since both are late ripening and their breeding records indicate that they have no known parents in common. We will be doing cross pollination between 'Boreal Beauty, and 'Boreal Blizzard' and several other advanced selections. If by chance it blooms mid-season, it would be likely to be compatible with Tundra and the Indigo series as they have only a 25% similarity in lineage.

If late ripening is an indication of late bloom, this variety would be worthwhile testing in warmer locations. It may have better southern adaptation.

'Boreal Beauty' Details
Plant Breeders Rights application #: 14-8411
Breeder denomination: '21-12-11.5'
Lineage: 37.5% Japanese, 37.5% Russian, 25% Kurile
Bloom Time Category: Late or very late, more seasons needed to investigate
Harvest Season : ripens after Saskatoon berries and with our dwarf sour cherries In Saskatoon in 2014 it was good tasting Late July to Early Aug, berries became soft 3 rd week August
Fruit Weight: 2.6g avg., 3.7g max
Fruit Shape: Thick Heart or thick Oval
Fruit Firmness Excellent
Flavour Excellent
Pending: lab analysis of haskap fruit characteristics will be done in fall of 2014
Bush Habit Upright Sturdy
Bush Vigour Very Strong
Mildew Resistance Excellent
Productivity Heavy

Plant vigour and productivity: The original plant was in the same field as 'Indigo Gem' plants but was a year younger. Despite having one less growing season, 'Boreal Beauty' plants were 50% larger and much more productive than 'Indigo Gem'.

Availability: Propagation is a year behind 'Boreal Blizzard' so we expect this variety to be available to the public in 2017. We have only recently started a few hundred cuttings. We plan to put buds into tissue culture once the plants have some chilling to fulfill dormancy in mid fall. Very likely those propagators that will carry 'Boreal Blizzard' will also carry this variety.

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