

# Early Duchessa (TH-1334)



*Blueberries*

- Blueberry type:** Southern Highbush
- Released:** 2016 Selection
- Key attributes:** Early Duchessa has been exclusively released to Topfruit as a commercial selection to be granted plant breeders rights in South Africa. This very low chill early ripening variety has very large, firm, flavorful berries with extensive production potential.
- Chilling Required:** Low chill (-50h < 7.2C)
- Flowering:** Flower bud break May.  
PDF = 80 Days Flowers two weeks before Star.
- Pollinator:** SH variety with similar flowering time.
- Bud break:** Evergreen
- Harvest:** Very early season production: Ripens 3 weeks before Star. (August to October)
- Plant Vigour:** Good vigorous growth.
- Yield:** Good (20 - 25 ton/ha).
- Berry size:** Very large size fruit (1.8–2.2g/berry), from 14-25mm.
- Fruit shape:** Round with small flower end.
- Colour:** Dark to medium blue
- Bloom:** Good bloom; dark blue
- Picking Scar:** Small dry scar. Pick very easily.



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**Firmness:** Very firm with good shelf life, much firmer than Star.

**Flavour:** Crisp & sweet with good brix, average acidity.

**Disease:** No Botryosphaeria spp. have been found.

**Licensed Countries:** Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, Mozambique, Angola, Tanzania, Kenia, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi.

## Georgia USA Evaluation Results

### Comparative Results

Selection	Chill	Berry	Berry	Berry	Berry	Berry	Plant
	Hours	Size	Scar	Color	Firmness	Flavor	Vigour
<b>Early Duchess</b>	<<100	9.3	7.5	7	8	7.5	8.5
<b>Star</b>	400	7	7	7.5	7.2	7.2	7.5
<b>Suzi Blue</b>	300	7.5	7	7	7.5	6.8	6.2

### Ripening Schedule

Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Georgia Dawn			
	Star		
	Miss Alice May		
	Miss Lilly		
		Miss Jackie	
	Blue Duchess		
Sweet Duchess			
Early Duchess			

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