

Gladiator (TH-1872)



Blueberries

- Blueberry type:** Southern Highbush.
- Released:** 2019 Selection.
- Key attributes:** Gladiator has been exclusively released to TopFruit as a commercial selection. This low chill early ripening variety has large, firm, flavourful berries with good production potential. Recommended to plant in cool Western Cape regions as well as areas such as the Limpopo. Not recommended for tropical regions.
- Chilling Required:** Low chill (150-250h < 7.2C).
- Flowering:** Flower bud break May/June. PDF = 85 Days Flowers earlier in warm climates. Very precocious with bud break of up to 10 buds a shoot.
- Pollinator:** Self-pollinating, bees are required at 8-10 hives per ha



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Harvest:	Early season production: from August to November. It has a compact harvesting season. Ripens just after Sweet Duchess.
Plant Vigour:	Semi-upright with good vigorous growth. Typical floricaner bearer.
Yield:	Good (20 - 25ton/ha). Production of 1.5kg/bush in 1st year, 2.5kg/bush in 2nd year & 4+kg om mature plants.
Berry size:	Very large size fruit (2.0 - 2.4g/berry), ranging between 16-24mm.
Fruit shape:	Round
Colour:	Medium blue to light blue.
Bloom:	Very good bloom; light blue.
Picking Scar:	Small dry scar.
Firmness:	Very firm and crunchy with good shelf life.
Flavour:	Crisp & sweet with good brix (11.5-13 ^o), average acidity, very good eating with outstanding flavour.
Disease:	Little rust has been observed. No Botryosphaeria spp.
Licensed countries:	South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Swaziland, Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi, and Lesotho.

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Ripening Schedule (Western Cape - North One Month Earlier)					
July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Northern SA	Sweet Duchess				
	Northern SA		Gladiator		
	Northern SA	Maverick			
		Miss Jackie			