



# MegaEarly (T11-319)



- Blueberry type:** Southern Highbush.
- Released:** 2019 Selection.
- Key attributes:** MegaEarly is exclusively released to TopFruit for most African regions south of the equator. This is the earliest bearing variety in the IQB portfolio. It is very low chill, has large, firm, flavourful berries with good production potential. Recommended for all planting areas, including tropical regions. It has created the most interest among license holders worldwide.
- Chilling Required:** True no chill type (-50h < 7.2C). Evergreen type suitable for all climates. Also suitable for tropical regions.
- Flowering:** Flower bud break: South Africa is April-May and from February in Zimbabwe. PDF = 80 Days. Ability to produce primocane fruit very early in a warm climate.
- Pollinator:** Shows signs of parthenocarpy, but bees are advised.

*Blueberries*





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<b>Harvest:</b>	Very early to mid-season: Western Cape: July to October, Limpopo: June to September, Zimbabwe April to September. This variety has the potential to bear primocane fruit very early in the harvest season. Harvest time can be manipulated by pruning.
<b>Plant Vigour:</b>	Upright with moderate good growth and a medium sized plant. Floricane & early primocane shoots. Higher plant density is recommended.
<b>Yield:</b>	Very Good: (18 - 20 ton/ha). Production 1st year is 1.75kg/plant, the 2nd year 2.5-3kg/plant and a mature plant 4+kg/plant.
<b>Berry size:</b>	Large size fruit (1.8 – 2.5g/berry), ranging between 14-22mm. (25% above 18mm)
<b>Fruit shape:</b>	Round to oblate
<b>Bloom:</b>	Strong; light blue
<b>Picking:</b>	Very easy picking due to long fruit stems. Small dry scar
<b>Firmness:</b>	Very firm with good shelf life. Fruit is crisp with a pop sensation when eaten.
<b>Flavour:</b>	Crisp and sweet with good brix, average acidity, very good eating
<b>Licensed Countries:</b>	South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Swaziland, Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Malawi, Lesotho and Ethiopia.
<b>Comments:</b>	Recommended to plant under plastic covering. Prone to continue flowering on primocane shoots throughout the season.

Fruit Size	Ripening	Eating Quality	Production
Large	<b>Very Early</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Very good</b>
	SA (July-October) Zimbabwe (April-Sept) Limpopo (May-Sept)	Crispy Sweet Very Firm	Very good production from first year of bearing

**About IQ Berries:** IQB is a private blueberry breeding program based in Brisbane, Australia. Peter Rolfe has extended experience in breeding and farming with blueberries. These selections are on par with the superb genetics emerging from Australia the past few years.