

Growing Haskap Berries



Originating from Siberia, these berries are said to taste like a cross between raspberries and blueberries. Research has also been shown that the haskap has higher levels of anti-oxidants than the blueberry. Haskaps can be used in the same way you would use other berries including: fresh eating, jams & preserves, baking and even a juice. Haskap bushes are excellent in the garden for a number of reasons. First, they are extremely cold hardy making them ideal for Canadian winters. Second, they are fast growing, and produce one of the earliest crops of all berry plants. Third, haskap shrubs are high yielding. One mature plant can produce up to 7-10 lbs of fruit. Finally, the haskap plant is also disease and pest resistant making it much easier to grow organically. Below is a quick guide for growing haskap berries.

Category	Directions and Notes
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full to part sun.• A sheltered spot is ideal.
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rich, moist, but well drained.• Tolerant of soil acidity and can be grown in a wider range of soils that Blueberries can (ph 5 - 8.5).
Planting Directions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Haskap plants require pollination in order to produce fruit. For best fruit production, plant at least 2 varieties in close range to get adequate pollination.
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As haskap plants can grow 4-8' tall, a yearly pruning is generally recommended to keep their size in check.• Prune in late winter or early spring. As the berries are borne on one year old wood, remove about 10-15% of the branches each year to create a steady supply of new wood for future years.
Harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Haskap flowers are borne early on stems and thus produce one of the earliest berry crops (even ahead of strawberries). Berries are ready to be picked by mid to late June.• These berries will look ripe 1-2 weeks before they are truly ready to be eaten. If the berries are green inside, they are not ripe; they should be a deep purple red inside when fully ripened.• Some berries will fall to the ground when ready. Birds can be highly attracted to haskap berries so garden netting to protect your crop may not be a bad idea.
Special Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Varieties: Cinderella, Borealis, Berry Blue, Indigo Gem, Sinoglaska.