



Ripening Blueberries at Blueberry Acres.

Blueberry Acres

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Blueberry Acres History and Facts

- The Federal Government planted approximately 65 acres of highbush blueberries as a feasibility trial, for commercial growing in Atlantic Canada, in 1959/1960.
- The present farm, known as “Blueberry Acres” has increased in size to 141 acres, and is still expanding.
- Government trials are still continuing on the farm with research into natural mulches for organic production.
- At the present time we grow over 30 varieties of blueberries and continue to try new varieties to meet the expanding market.
- In 2006 an organic section was developed to meet consumer demands.
- Each blueberry variety is unique in flavor and taste, varying from slightly tart to sweet. The Jersey type is the sweetest while Bluecrop is slightly tart. The bulk of our u-pick varieties are Bluecrop, Bluejay, Spartan, Berkeley, Jersey, and Northland.
- Highbush berries range in size; the smallest the size of a wild blueberry, to the largest the size of a loonie.
- The bushes at Blueberry Acres range from 1 year to 45 years old, producing over a million pounds of blueberries a year.
- Our blueberry bushes are hand pruned each spring; it takes approximately 45 people 8 to 10 weeks to complete the job, depending on the weather.
- Blossom time starts at the end of May to the beginning of June, lasting for approximately one month. Although high bush blueberries are technically self pollinating, Blueberry Acres still rent over 250 bee hives to help improve the process which results in 2.5 million bees for cross pollination.



Pickers enjoying a relaxing day in the field

- Fresh fruit is usually available around the end of July to about mid October, based on pollination and weather conditions.
- Blueberries need an inch of rainfall per week, but they don't like the ground wet. They need well drained soil. Ten to fifteen million gallons of water are put on our two farm locations every year, Blueberry Acres and Medford.
- Research has shown that blueberries have several health benefits.
 - * Blueberries are high in antioxidants, which fight against cancer-causing free radicals in our bodies, lowering the risk of both cancer and cardiovascular disease.
 - * Blueberries are also said to reduce the effects of aging and have been linked to improved vision. Research on blueberries and vision is continuing at our local Agriculture Canada facility.
- Blueberry Acres is part of the Nova Agri Group of Companies.
 - * Nova Agri markets potatoes, onions, lettuce, squash, carrots, blueberries, strawberries, raspberries and other soft fruits, throughout the world.
 - * We are able to offer our customers fully traceable, safe food products.
 - * Look for our brand, Country Magic, at your local supermarkets.
 - * *If a customer requests a certain berry size or flavor, we offer a custom pack service, with 24 hours notice, when the variety of fruit is available.*
- Six years ago, Between the Bushes Restaurant and Experience, which is situated amongst the blueberry bushes, opened its doors.
 - * Chef Steve Riley uses fresh, local ingredients when they are available.
 - * Our Gift Shop features creations inspired by Chef Riley and our New Product Development Team, such as Blueberry and Fat-Free Bumbleberry Vinaigrettes, Blueberry Apple Chutney, and Red Pepper Spread.
 - * Watch for the restaurant newsletter, "From Field to Fork," for additional information on the growing, use, and storage of local crops.

*We Hope you Enjoyed your
Experience here at Blueberry Acres!
Please Come Again Next Year!*