

# Honeyberry (Haskaps) Planting and Care Guide



## Planting Guide

1. Most honeyberry plants require a companion pollinator plant (of a different variety) to produce fruit. Make sure you have at least one companion planted within 50 feet of your other honeyberries. For the 2024 plant sale, Boreal Beast is the companion plant to both Boreal Blizzard and Boreal Beauty. Aurora and Indigo Gem are companion pollinators for each other.
2. Choose the best site:
  - Sun: Full sun to partial shade
  - Soil: Can do well in many soils (partially sandy, loamy, some clay), prefer well drained. Tolerates a wide range of soil pH (4.5-7.5)
  - Spacing: Plant 4-5 ft apart
3. Dig a hole a few inches deeper and wider than your plant.
4. Gently break apart any root ball to spread the roots. Plant 2-4 inches of stem below the surface to promote new growth.
5. Mix some compost or other organic material into the soil as you backfill the hole and make sure all of the roots are covered by soil. Firmly pack the soil down (even stomp on it with your feet).
6. Water immediately after planting.
7. Optional: to help maintain soil moisture and minimize weeds mulch with 2-3 inches of wood chips, leaving several inches around the stem clear.

## Care Guide

- Honeyberry plants will need frequent watering, especially during the first 1-2 years. Water thoroughly 3-4 times a week, depending on the weather. Be careful not to overwater potted honeyberries though.
- Honeyberry plants do not compete well with weeds, particularly grasses, so make sure to weed thoroughly, especially for the first 2-3 years. You can cover the ground with landscape fabric to help prevent weed growth, but make sure to leave at least 6-8" of space around the plant uncovered for new growth.
- Honeyberry plants usually start producing a good amount of berries when they are 4 years old. Most honeyberries are ripe when they are blue or dark purple all

the way through, but taste a few as they ripen to get a sense of the best time to pick your berries.

- Rabbits, deer, and other animals may want to chomp on your young honeyberry plants, but you can protect them with wire caging for the first few years.
- Birds love honeyberries, so you may want to protect the plants with netting when they are fruiting.
- Pruning is needed to keep honeyberry plants healthy. For the first four seasons you will not need to prune. Just remove dead or damaged wood. In early spring before the 5th season, prune out the oldest wood, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the plant. Prune like this every 2-3 years.

*Adapted from our own experience growing berry plants, Cornell Cooperative Extension Columbia Greene [“Small/Unusual Fruits for the Home Garden”](#), and Honeyberry USA [“About Honeyberry Shrub and Fruit”](#)*