

‘Boreal Beauty’

by Bob Bors

Available in 2017



Figure 1. Boreal Beauty fruits are oval or heart shaped. Berries are thick, firm and meaty. Plant structure and berry characteristics make them ideally suited for mechanical harvesting. The spoon in this photo is 3.5 cm wide. If this article is printed on 8 ½ x 11 paper actual berry size can be seen.

‘Boreal Beauty’ is an exciting new haskap that opens up an entirely new season for Haskap growers: It had fruit fully ripe a month after most varieties were finished in 2014! Its plant and berry characteristics fit all categories that I’ve been looking for in haskap suitable for mechanical harvesting. Berries are heavy, firm, mostly oval, and hold onto branches with just the right amount of force and taste great. Bushes are strong and upright growers and show no signs of mildew and are very productive. Almost all our large-fruited haskap cause branches to bend over, but not ‘Boreal Beauty’, her branches remain strong and upright. I only wish I had early and mid-season ripening versions of this variety! I suppose the occasional tip on some of the berries, which make many of the largest berries look like a heart, could be a disadvantage, but that could be a charming aspect too for fresh sales. Put the heart shape ones on top of the

package. Its berries are almost as heavy as 'Boreal Blizzard' berries although they are only 2/3rds as long. But they are considerably thicker.



Figure 2. 'Boreal Beauty' branches full of fruit.

'Boreal Beast' (A new variety just released in 2016) is recommended as a companion plant for pollination with 'Boreal Beauty'. They are pollen compatible with each other. In 2016 'Boreal Beast' started blooming 4 or 5 days earlier than 'Boreal Beauty' but both varieties stopped blooming at the same time. About 25% of Japanese seedlings in our breeding fields bloomed in Sync with 'Boreal Beauty', but about 75% of Japanese seedlings bloomed earlier. Very likely some of Maxine Thompson's varieties will be in sync and compatible with 'Boreal Beauty'. We will be testing those when they become available. (note: Maxine's varieties are not currently available in Canada but perhaps they will be in 2007 or 2008)

'Boreal Beauty' is pollen compatible with 'Boreal Blizzard' and 'Aurora' but those varieties stopped blooming about 4 days earlier than 'Boreal Beauty' (in 2016). 'Tundra', and the 'Indigo' series stopped blooming a week before 'Boreal Beauty' (in 2016) and would have less overlap. However, much depends of how fast spring warms up. If your location always warms up quickly in spring than perhaps those would be acceptable. During years that spring comes quickly the

overlap of bloom is better, but in years where spring warming is very gradual there would be less of an overlap. Conditions at bloom time in 2016 was unusual for haskap: It started unusually warm, got cold, got warm, got cold, then normal.

Our collection of Russian varieties (such as ‘Berry Blue’/’ Tomichka’ and ‘Cinderella’/’Zolshka’) bloomed considerably earlier than ‘Boreal Beauty’ and would be a very poor choice to use as a companion plant.

Some years it has been found tasting good in the last week of July and first two weeks of August in Saskatoon. If late ripening is an indication of late bloom, this variety and ‘Boreal Beast’ would be worthwhile testing in warmer locations. It may have better southern adaptation.

‘Boreal Beauty’ Details
Plant Breeders Rights application #: 14-8411
Breeder denomination: ‘21-12-11.5’
Lineage: 37.5% Japanese, 37.5% Russian, 25% Kurile
Bloom Time Category: Late or very late, more seasons needed to investigate
Harvest Season : ripens after Saskatoon berries and with our dwarf sour cherries In Saskatoon in 2014 it was good tasting Late July to Early Aug, berries became soft 3 rd week August
Fruit Weight: 2.6g avg., 3.7g max
Fruit Shape: Thick Heart or thick Oval
Fruit Firmness Excellent
Flavour Excellent
Brix: 16.9 (2014) Total Acidity: 1.87 (2014)
Bush Habit Upright Sturdy
Bush Vigour Very Strong
Mildew Resistance Excellent
Productivity Heavy

Plant vigour and productivity: The original plant was in the same field as ‘Indigo Gem’ plants but was a year younger. Despite having one less growing season, ‘Boreal Beauty’ plants were 50% larger and much more productive than ‘Indigo Gem’.

Availability: Propagation is a year behind ‘Boreal Blizzard’ so we expect this variety to be available to the public in 2017.

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