

# Ison's Nursery & Vineyard

## Planting Instructions

### Honeyberry Planting Instructions



Honeyberries, also known as haskap berries, are a type of fruiting honeysuckle that tastes like a cross between a blueberry and a grape. For cold climate gardeners, honeyberries are a dependable source of early spring fruit, ripening about three weeks before strawberries. Haskaps are extremely cold hardy as well, growing and producing fruit where winters hit 40 below.

If your plant is potted, plant them at the same depth they were in the pot.

Honeyberry plants have shallow root systems – similar to blueberry plants. It is important to water thoroughly especially while fruiting and growing during summer.

#### **Cross-Pollination**

Most honeyberry varieties require another different variety for cross-pollination and fruit production. In most cases, the lack of a compatible variety – defined as another different variety of honeyberry plant that blooms at the same time – is why honeyberry plants do not bear fruit. Since insects and wind need to carry pollen from flower to flower between honeyberry plants, honeyberries and their pollen partners should be planted nearby – within 50 feet of one another for adequate cross-pollination to occur.

#### **Location:**

Honeyberry plants thrive in a growing location that receives partial shade to full sun and has a well-drained, fertile soil. (Full sun is at least 6 to 8 hours of sunlight during the growing season.) Light is vital to fruit production and fruit quality, and also helps minimize the risk of fungal issues, so this is an essential part of choosing a location for your honeyberry plants. Keep in mind, the foliage of honeyberry plants may exhibit signs of injury if growing in a location that receives intense, direct full sun during the hot summer months. This can be avoided by planting in partial shade or construction a temporary shade cloth structure for protection during the summer.

#### **PLANTING:**

Do not soak honeyberry plants prior to planting. Instead, ensure that the soil around the honeyberry plants' roots does not dry out. Gently loosen and spread the circling roots to encourage them to grow outward as they establish in the ground during the growing season.

The planting hole should be deep and wide enough to accommodate the current root system without being restricted. (When digging the planting hole, make sure it is deep and wide enough so each honeyberry plant's root system has plenty of room to easily expand. Keep the more-nutritious topsoil in a pile so you can put it in the bottom of the hole, where it will do the most-good.)

Place each honeyberry plant in the center of the planting hole with its roots down and spread out. Holding onto the stems to keep them vertical, backfill the hole, putting the topsoil back in first. You can avoid creating air pockets by working the soil carefully around the roots and tamping down firmly with your hands as you refill the planting hole around your honeyberry plants.

Spread soil evenly around the plants and finish with a layer of mulch to prevent damage from water pooling and injury from freezing around the plants in fall going into winter.

Thoroughly water your newly planted honeyberry plants. A deep, slow soaking is best. Do not fertilize until the spring. Plant 4' to 6' apart. A mature honeyberry bush can be 4' tall and have a spread of 4'.

Apply a layer of organic material like wood mulch (rather than inorganic material like rocks), about 2 to 3 inches thick, around the root zone of your honeyberry plants. Mulching helps discourage weeds while also keeping water from quickly evaporating away from the root zone. In the fall, increase the mulch layer or add a layer of straw for winter protection.

Honeyberry plants may live and be productive 30 to 50 years with proper maintenance.

Average yield per plant is 1/2lb to 2lbs. Size at Maturity: 2-3 ft. in height.

