



# Blueberry 'Perpetua' & 'Echo' - Repeat Flowering

USDA-Agricultural Research Service & Oregon State University, USA

The USDA-ARS blueberry breeding project in cooperation with Oregon State University identified the repeat flowering trait in open-pollinated seedlings from a *Vaccinium* accession (PI 296412) growing in a USDA field collection in Corvallis, Oregon. Seedlings that had repeat flowering and other valuable traits were selected and advanced in the breeding project. The project released 'Perpetua' and 'Echo', which have at least two flushes of flowers and fruit. Both cultivars are suitable for ornamental and home garden uses.



Photo from GRIN-Global

Blueberry (PI 296412) fruit at various stages of ripening.

## PROJECT GOALS

- ✓ Release cultivars with repeat-flowering/double-cropping trait suitable for production in Northern climates

## Problems Addressed

Most Northern-adapted blueberries have one flush of flowers and fruit and harvest seasons that are limited to 3 to 5 weeks. There was a need for varieties with the reflowering trait, which allows for a longer, more diversified season and multiple flushes of fresh fruit on a long-lived perennial crop. These plants will continue to produce ripe fruit through the fall until freezing temperatures stop fruit development.

## Solutions Developed

The project released 'Perpetua' in 2015. This is an open-pollinated seedling of PI 296412, a wild accession collected from Maine that is thought to be a hybrid of *V. corymbosum* and *V. angustifolium*. In 2019, the project also released 'Echo', which is the result of a cross between 'Perpetua' and ORUS 55-1. In the Pacific Northwest, 'Perpetua' and 'Echo' have one flush of flowers in late spring and fruit in mid-summer, and another flush of flowers and fruit in the fall until a hard frost stops their development.



Written by: R. King, N. Bassil, K. Chen (editor)

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