Berry Smart™ Belle Honeyberry

Lonicera caerulea 'Berry Smart Belle'

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 2

Other Names: Blue Belle, Sweetberry Honeysuckle

Description:

An interesting hardy shrub with clean foliage and delicious bluish-purple berries that are edible; dense and fairly compact growing habit; selected for larger fruit and high yeilds, must have another honeyberry variety for cross pollination

Edible Qualities

Berry Smart Belle Honeyberry is a medium-sized shrub that is typically grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. It produces navy blue oval berries with powder blue overtones which are usually ready for picking from late spring to early summer. The berries have a sweet taste and a fleshy texture.

The berries are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Preserves

Features & Attributes

Berry Smart Belle Honeyberry features subtle creamy white flowers along the branches in early spring. It has green deciduous foliage. The narrow leaves do not develop any appreciable fall colour. It features an abundance of magnificent navy blue berries with powder blue overtones in late spring.



Berry Smart Belle Honeyberry fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Berry Smart Belle Honeyberry fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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This is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition. This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Berry Smart Belle Honeyberry is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping



Berry Smart Belle Honeyberry
Photo courtesy of University of Saskatchewan

Planting & Growing

Berry Smart Belle Honeyberry will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years. While it is considered to be somewhat self-pollinating, it tends to set heavier quantities of fruit with a different variety of the same species growing nearby.

This shrub is quite ornamental as well as edible, and is as much at home in a landscape or flower garden as it is in a designated edibles garden. It does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.