



Columbia Nursery

Haskap (Honeyberry) Planting & Care Guide (Zones 3–5)

Haskaps, also known as honeyberries, are among the earliest fruiting and most cold-hardy berry bushes for northern gardens. They thrive in USDA Zones 3–5 and require minimal care once established.

General Growing Guidelines

- Sunlight: Full sun for best yields
- Soil: Well-draining, loamy soil (pH 5.5–6.5)
- Spacing: 4–6 ft between bushes; 8–10 ft between rows
- Pollination: Require at least two compatible varieties for cross-pollination

Haskap Care

- Cold Hardy: Survive to –60°F; flower and fruit earlier than most berries
- Early Harvest: Often ready by mid-June
- Size: 4–6 ft tall and wide
- Pruning:
 - Minimal pruning for first 3 years
 - Remove dead/damaged wood in late winter
 - Thin crowded growth after year 3 for airflow

Watering, Fertilizing & Mulching

- Watering: Keep soil evenly moist, especially during fruiting
- Fertilizer: Use low-nitrogen fertilizer in early spring
- Mulch: 2–4" of mulch protects shallow roots and reduces weeds

Tips for Zones 3–5

- Best varieties: 'Aurora', 'Borealis', 'Honeybee', 'Tundra'
- Expect fruit within 1–2 years; peak production by year 4
- Net to deter birds
- Ideal for fresh eating, preserves, and freezing
- With proper selection and care, haskaps are one of the easiest and earliest berries to grow in northern climates—perfect for extending your fresh fruit season.

Planting Timeline (Zones 3–5)

Activity	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5



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Plant dormant or potted	May 15–June 1	May 1–May 20	April 15–May 10
Prune mature bushes	Late winter	Early spring	March
Fertilize & mulch	Late May	Early May	April

⊗ Common Haskap Issues

Issue	Likely Cause	Solution
Poor fruiting	Lack of compatible pollinator	Plant at least two compatible cultivars
Yellowing leaves	Nutrient or drainage issue	Test soil and fertilize appropriately
Early flower loss	Late frost	Choose later-blooming varieties if needed