

James Hutton Institute Blackcurrant Varieties

	Growth Habit	Disease & Pest Resistance	Fruit Quality	Other info	Parentage
Ben Alder Protected by Plant Variety Rights in the Netherlands.	Fairly vigorous, similar in habit & size to Ben Tirran. Growth in some regions (W. Midlands) can be dense.	Resistant; mildew & leafspot Susceptible; gall mite & reversion, although cropping is only slowly affected Also leaf curling midge.	Medium sized – usually just over 1g Excellent fruit quality with high colour stability Recommended for juice production & processing outlets.	Late flowering means escaping spring frosts Has produced yields of around 10t/ha in trials	Ben More x Ben Lomond
Ben Finlay	Fairly compact in early years & spreading with age. Yields found to increase as bushes grow older. Requires good soil conditions to develop its full potential.	Resistant; blackcurrant gall mite & mildew Showing some resistance; leafspot	High in Vitamin C with mean levels above 200g/100ml. Acidity is generally high, and the anthocyanin content is higher than in juice of Ben Hope. Fruit hangs for over a week when ripe. Good flavour suitable for both processing and fresh. Medium to large berry at 1.2g	Yields of up to 9-10t/ha in trials. Chilling requirement assessed as relatively low compared to other standard varieties.	[(SCRI P10/9/13 x Ben Alder) x EM B1834-67]
Ben Gairn Protected by Plant Variety Rights in the UK, Denmark, Poland and the Netherlands.	Fairly compact. Thinning may be useful if middle becomes dense. Establishment is best on deep fertile soils.	Resistant; Blackcurrant reversion virus. Reduced susceptibility; blackcurrant gall mite Good resistance; foliar diseases Quite high susceptibility; aphid attacks in some regions	Good juice colour & anthocyanin content moderate ascorbic acid levels Flavour acceptable for both fresh and processed Berries are usually large with good integrity after harvest	Winter chilling requirement is relatively low Yields of over 10t/ha have been achieved in trials	Ben Alder x Golubka
Ben Hope Protected by Plant Variety Rights in the UK, Denmark, Poland and the Netherlands.	Vigorous, upright growing bush, showing high rates of growth in its early stages. Branches can bend with the weight of the crop but usually return after harvest. Growth on very fertile sights can become difficult to manage.	Significantly less susceptible to gall mite than most and therefore, can be grown in reduced-input growing systems. Good resistance; mildew & leafspot In some areas rust (Cronartium Ribicola) can be severe.	Medium-large berry Usually over 1g Good sensory qualities	Yields are consistently high & fruit is acceptable for commercial production Winter chilling requirement is relatively low	Westra x (238/36 x EM21/15)
Ben Tirran	Reasonably upright with good vigour.	Excellent resistance; powdery mildew & leafspot Susceptible; blackcurrant gall mite, blackcurrant reversion virus & leaf curling midge	Similar to Ben Hope Suitable for all processing requirements Usually around 1g per berry	Yields are similar to Ben Hope & usually slightly above Ben Alder Valuable in extending the cropping season Excellent cropping potential The winter chilling requirement has been assessed as high	Ben Lomond x [(Seabrooks Black x Amos Black) x (Seabrooks Black x Ribes sp.)]
Big Ben Protected by EU Plant Variety Rights	Spreading habit, although branches are fairly strong. Can be grown on wires in protected situations.	Resistant; mildew and leafspot	High Brix/acid ratios Good yields Ideal for fresh consumption rather than juice processing Very large berries (usually > 2g)	Specialist variety for the fresh market.	Complex cross involving (Goliath x Ojebyn) op, Ben Nevis and Vistavotnaja.
The following varieties are exclusive to Lucozade Ribena Suntory					
Ben Avon * Protected by EU Plant Variety Rights	Similar to Ben Tirran, with large vigorous bushes.	Resistant; mildew & leafspot Susceptible; gall mite & reversion, although cropping is only slowly affected	Good overall High levels of Vitamin C Large berries (>1g in most years)	Generally performs best in eastern & southern areas Moderately high winter chilling requirement	Ben Alder x SCRI C2/1/62
Ben Dorain * Protected by EU Plant Variety Rights	Strong upright growth.	Resistant; mildew Generally resistant; leafspot. Susceptible; gall mite & reversion, although cropping is only slowly affected	Some high brix levels achieved Moderate Vitamin C but good anthocyanin content Good hangability & are usually around 1g	Generally performs best in northern & western parts of the UK, due to moderate to high chilling requirement.	Ben Alder x SCRI C2/1/62
Ben Klibreck * Protected by EU Plant Variety Rights	Slightly spreading. Vigorous growth that may suit weaker soils or replant sites.	Resistant; powdery mildew & leafspot	Fruit processing quality is good High vitamin C & anthocyanin content Medium sized berries, around 1g	Consistently high yields throughout trials & commercial production, with means of over 11t/ha. Moderate to high chilling requirement although performed consistently well across several regions of the UK, including after mild winters. Budbreak generally around the same time as Ben Hope.	(Ben More x C2/13/15) x (Ben More x Ri-74020-16)
Ben Starav * Protected by EU Plant Variety Rights	Bushes come into cropping quickly with good fruit set. Habit is upright. Short strigs, vigorous growth.	Resistant; powdery mildew Fairly resistant; leafspot	Excellent fruit processing quality High Brix & juice yield Very high anthocyanin content Medium sized berries (usually slightly over 1g)	Consistently high yields of around 10t/ha. Chilling requirement is low/medium, giving good adaptability across a range of environments. Budbreak generally around the same time as Ben Hope.	(Ben Alder x [(SCRI E29/1 x (SCRI 93/20 x SCRI 100/7)) x [SCRI ND21/12 x SCRI 155/9])
Ben Vane *	Bush is quite spreading. The weight of the crop can bring branches down in some years.	Resistant; powdery mildew Fairly resistant; leafspot	Juice quality is very good with high juice yield & brix Low acidity & moderate-high vitamin C Outstanding sensory properties, particularly valuable for all processing applications Small to medium berry around 0.7g	Very high yields in trials, particularly in W. Midlands with occasional crops of over 15t/ha. Performs best on sites with deep, fertile soil.	[(SCRI 2/40 x SCRI 243/7) x Westra x SCRI 243/7])

All varieties are machine harvestable with the exception of Big Ben.