

NATIONAL PLANT GERMPLASM REPOSITORY - Corvallis
HISTORICAL INFORMATION SHEET

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Accession ID : PI 554944 Local No. : CVAC 312.001
Common Name : Highbush Blueberry Request number: 2004204

TAXONOMY INFORMATION

Name : Vaccinium corymbosum L
Cultivar : O'Neal
ID Notes : G. J. Galletta and A. D. Draper cultivar release
introduced in 1987
Breeder : Dr. James R. Ballington
Cult. Synonym: Tested as NC 1688
Pedigree : Wolcott x Fla. 4-15
mainly corymbosum, some angustifolium, ashei, darrowii

ORIGIN INFORMATION

Status : CULTIVAR
Developer : James R. Ballington
Address : Horticulture Sciences Dept.
Kilgore Hall, Rm #260
City : Raleigh
State : North Carolina 27695-7609
Country : United States
Developed :
Cultivar note: Cultivar introduced in 1990

NOTES: Fruit: Large, with good color, scar, firmness, and flavor; early ripening. Bush: productive, vigorous, semi-upright; widely adapted. Low chilling, about 400 hours. Resistant to stem canker race 1. - Brooks and Olmo Register of Fruit and Nut Varieties. 1997. ASHS Press. p. 184.

O'NEAL is recommended for trial throughout the southeastern U.S., as a very-early to early ripening cultivar which should replace Wolcott. It is productive and produces very large fruit, with good color and excellent picking scar, firmness, and flavor. It sets a new standard for flavor among early-ripening southern highbush cultivars. A tough skin and excellent picking scar compensate somewhat for an undesirable soluble solids/acids ratio in extending shelf-life. The O'NEAL plant is vigorous, semi-upright in habit, and widely adapted. It performs well in the coastal plain, and on lighter soils in the piedmont (with mulching incorporation of organic matter). It is early blooming with a chilling requirement of around 400 hrs, and frost protection is recommended to insure regular cropping. Flowers are self-fertile. O'NEAL is very easy to propagate from cuttings. It is field tolerant to the predominant race of stem canker in North, Carolina and reasonably field tolerant to stem blight. It is susceptible to blueberry bud mite, but not nearly as susceptible as Wolcott.

O'NEAL is intended primarily as a large-fruited, very high quality, early-ripening cultivar for hand harvest for commercial shipment. It is also adapted for PYO plantings in the piedmont of the southeast with appropriate soil modification and permanent irrigation. The name O'NEAL is in honor of Mr. J.M. O'Neal, Jr. who devoted 20 years to the blueberry and strawberry breeding programs at N.C. State University.

Good color & quality, susceptible to stem canker and mites, low chilling

INVENTORY INFORMATION

Inventory Name: O'Neal
Secondary ID : NC 1688
Date Received : 04/03/1984
Verification : IDOK as of 07/00/1989 Per J. Ballington
Form Stored : PL
Available : YES
Field : 09-17
Screenhouse : 10-32-20 Greenhouse:
Virus Status : TESTED ; Negative tests: CQ-1986
ELISA : Negative tests: BBCARLA-2001 BBILAR-2001 BBLMV-2001 BBSSV-2001 Phytoplasma-2001 TOBRV-1985