

BLACK CURRANTS

FRUIT							PLANT	
Cultivar	Berry Size	Characteristics	Uses	Harvest Period	Yield	Fruit Production	Height & Growth Habit	Spacing
Ben Connan*	1.3g	Sweeter flavor than Hope or Tirran	Mechanically harvestable For fresh or processing Not for juicing	Early (around mid-July) Uniform ripening	18.6 tonnes/ha High yielding	Max. yield after 4yrs.	Compact, around 4ft	In Row/Between Row 3-4ft 12-18ft Ben Sarek can be planted at closer spacing(e.g. 3ft)
Ben Hope*	1.35g	Good flavor <i>Good resistance to gall mite</i>	Mechanically harvestable Good for commercial production	Mid-season (end of July)	12 tonnes/ha		Rapid early growth Upright and vigorous	
Ben Sarek*	Unknown but MRS calls it a big berry 1.0-1.5g	Good frost and cold tolerance Sweeter flavor than Hope or Tirran	For fresh eating, u-pick, and market gardens Not for juicing	Mid-season (end of July)	Unknown but described by suppliers as good producer. MRS says it is a high yielder.		Compact, around 3ft	
Ben Tirran*	1.0g	12-14 days later than Ben Hope Good for all processing-juice, jellies, etc.	Easy to harvest mechanically Good for commercial production	Late season (early August)	7.3 tonnes/ha MRS says yield similar to Hope but here is lower		Upright growth with good vigor	
Tiben**	1.0g	<i>Resistant to mildew*** Relatively resistant to White Pine Blister Rust***</i>	Mechanically harvestable	Mid to Late season (mid-July to late July) Even ripening	7.9-9.0 tonnes/ha		Large bushes Upright growth	

*Source: Mylnefield Research Station, Scotland

**Source: Journal of Fruit and Ornamental Plant Research Vol 16, 2008:153-166 http://www.insad.pl/files/journal_pdf/journal_2008/full15%202008.pdf

*** Source: Organic Black Currant Production Manuel