

## Highbush Blueberry

*Vaccinium corymbosum*

NS General Status Rank: Secure

SHRUBS : WOODY PLANTS



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Ovate leaves

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Old and new twig growth



Ripe black and unripe, green fruits



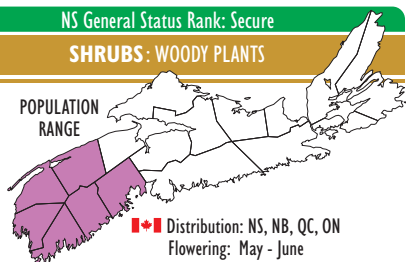
Flowers

© SEAN BLANEY



Highbush Blueberry shrub that is taller than Megan

© JEROME D'EON



**SIZE:** 1-4 m tall.

**LEAVES:** Ovate, 3-8 cm long, 1.5-4 cm wide, with smooth edges (entire) or small, sharp teeth (serrate). They are alternately arranged on the stem with a short leaf stalk (petiole) and are mostly smooth but sometimes have small hairs on the veins or leaf edges.

**STEM:** Highly branched. Young twigs are smooth, greenish-brown and have small hairs. Older growth is darker, rougher and reddish-brown to dark-grey.

**FLOWERS:** White or pinkish-white, urn-shaped, 6-10 mm long and with 5 petal-like lobes at the tip. They are in numerous clusters.

**FRUITS:** Round, edible, blue or bluish-black and full of many tiny, dark seeds. They have a waxy covering and are 7-12 mm wide.

**NOTES:** The flowers and the leaves open around the same time in the spring.



### Habitat:

Bogs, swamps, wet soils in pastures, rocky barrens and lake shorelines.

**Interesting point:** These tasty berries are sometimes called star berries because of the five parted blossom on one end.

**Similar species:** Velvet-leaf Blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtilloides*) is shorter (less than 75 cm tall), and covered in small hairs with sparse, straight hairs covering the leaf surface. Lowbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) is much shorter (10-60 cm tall) and has elliptical leaves, 1.5-3 cm long, which are sharply toothed (serrated) along the edge.