



## **Aurora Honeyberry**

*Lonicera caerulea 'Aurora'*

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 2a

Other Names: Sweetberry Honeysuckle, Haskap

Group/Class: Fruit bush

### **Description:**

An interesting hardy shrub with clean foliage and delicious bluish-purple berries that are edible; dense growing habit; a perfect companion of Borealis, and others, for cross pollination; selected for better fruit production and higher yields

### **Edible Qualities**

Aurora Honeyberry is a medium-sized shrub that is commonly grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. It produces blue round berries which are typically harvested when mature. The berries have a sweet taste.

The berries are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Preserves

### **Features & Attributes**

Aurora Honeyberry features subtle yellow flowers along the branches in early spring. It has green deciduous foliage. The narrow leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color. It features an abundance of magnificent blue berries in late spring.



*Aurora Honeyberry fruit*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Aurora Honeyberry*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



This is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition. This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Aurora Honeyberry is suitable for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping

### **Planting & Growing**

Aurora Honeyberry will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years. This variety requires a different selection of the same species growing nearby in order to set fruit.

This shrub is quite ornamental as well as edible, and is as much at home in a landscape or flower garden as it is in a designated edibles garden. It does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Pollinator partner:

While other varieties exist for cross-pollination, Borealis honeyberries are most successful and hardy for this region.



*Aurora Honeyberry fruit  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*