

Ben Gairn



Breeder: SCRI

Breeder's number: SCRI F4/1/67.

Parentage: Ben Alder x Russian cultivar Golubka.

Flowering: around 10-12 days earlier than Ben Hope.
Winter chilling requirement has been assessed as relatively low.

Ben Gairn is an early-ripening large-fruited variety with resistance to Blackcurrant Reversion Virus.

Protected by Plant Variety Rights in the UK, Denmark, Poland and the Netherlands.

Technical Data

Variety	Date of 1st flower	Harvest Date	Yield (t/ha)	Berry Size (g)
Ben Gairn	16th April	12th July	8.38	1.19
Ben Alder	2nd May	31st July	10.28	1.02
Ben Finlay	19th April	18th July	8.17	1.16
Ben Tirran	1st May	2nd August	7.3	0.92
Ben Dorain	28th April	28th July	8.42	0.94
From trial plots.				

Cropping Season: Ben Gairn is the earliest of the UK varieties grown commercially, with a harvest usually 8 to 10 days before Ben Hope. Yields of over 10t/ha have been achieved in trials.

Growth Habit: Has a fairly compact growth habit, and is highly suitable for mechanical harvesting. The growth in the middle of the bush can become quite dense, so some thinning is useful in such cases. Establishment is best on deep fertile soils.

Fruit Quality: Good in terms of juice colour and anthocyanin content, although ascorbic acid levels are moderate to low. Flavour is acceptable in both fresh and processed forms. The berries are generally large (around 1.2g per berry), with good integrity after harvest.

Disease and Pest Resistance: A key agronomic advantage of this cultivar is its resistance to Blackcurrant Reversion Virus. The resistance is derived from the species *Ribes dikuscha* in the Russian variety Golubka, which is a parent of Ben Gairn. This is accompanied by reduced susceptibility to blackcurrant gall mite, compared to most other varieties, and also good resistance to foliar diseases. However, Ben Gairn shows quite high susceptibility to aphid attacks in some regions.