

Ben Hope



Breeder: SCRI

Breeder's number: SCRI C1/9/10

Parentage: Westra (a derivative of the variety Westwick Choice) x (238/36 x EM21/15).

Flowering: Budbreak in Ben Hope occurs around 7-10 days after Ben Gairn and up to 2 weeks before Ben Alder. Winter chilling requirement has been assessed as relatively low, enabling Ben Hope to be grown in areas with minimal winter chill.

This variety is 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 Hope	23rd April	26th July	12.16	1.35
Ben Klibreck	22nd April	26th July	11.57	1.09
Ben Alder	2nd May	31st July	10.28	1.02
Ben Avon	11th May	31st July	9.9	1.01

From trial plots.

Cropping Season: Harvest is usually 10-14 days before Ben Alder, and ca. 12-14 days after Ben Gairn.

Growth Habit: Ben Hope is a vigorous and upright-growing bush, showing high rates of growth in its early stages. The branches can bend with the weight of crop but usually return to a more upright state after harvest. However, careful site selection is important, as growth on very fertile sites can become difficult to manage. The bushes are readily harvested mechanically, as soon as the fruit is ripe.

Productivity: Yields are consistently high and fruit is acceptable for commercial production.

Fruit Quality: Medium-large berry, usually over 1g, with good sensory qualities.

Disease and Pest Resistance: Ben Hope is significantly less susceptible to blackcurrant gall mite than most other varieties, and as a consequence, it can be grown in reduced-input growing systems. Resistance to both mildew and leaf spot is good, although in some areas rust (*Cronartium ribicola*) can be severe.