

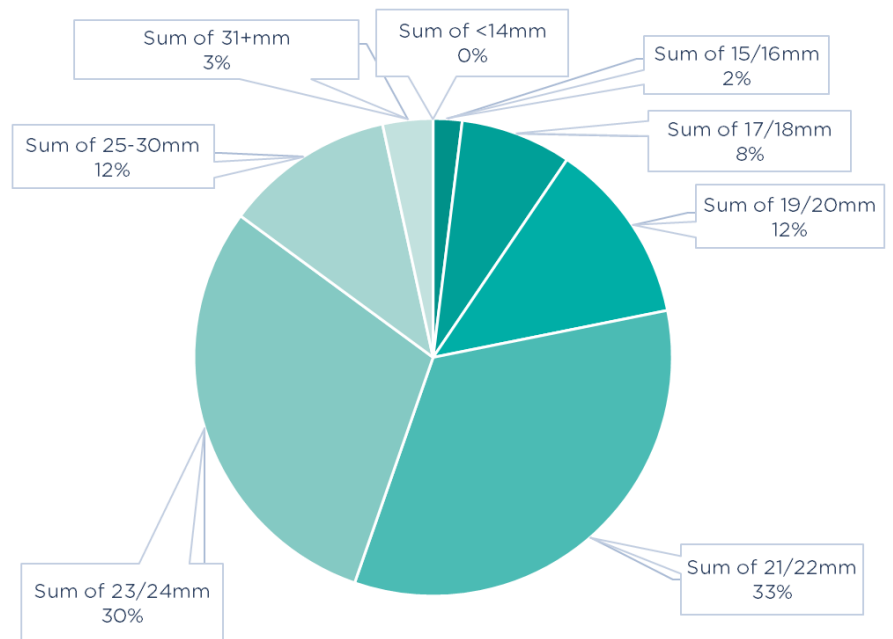


Eureka Gold

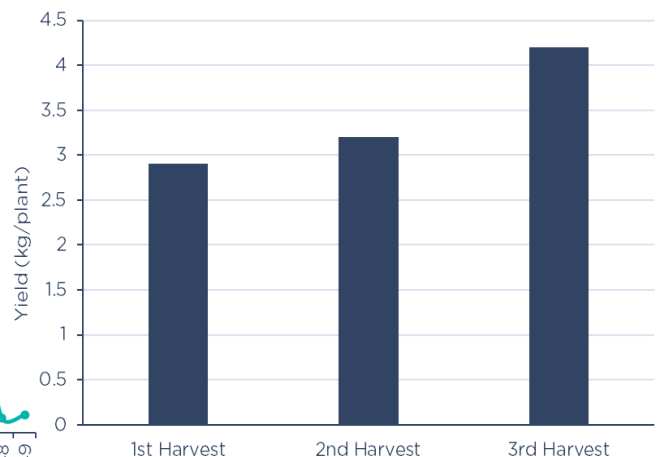
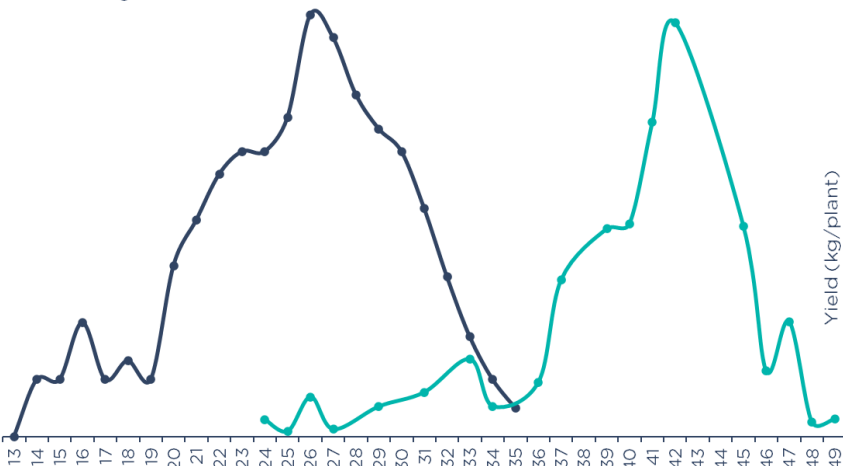
Eureka Gold is Mountain Blue's next varietal release. Selected in 2014 for its high yield and exquisite fruit quality, *Eureka Gold* has shown promise to be an excellent mid-season variety, presenting positive attributes from both parents; *Eureka* and *Twilight*, which includes large to very large fruit size, a crisp/crunchy texture, intense bloom and a great ease of picking. The bush is large with an upright/semi-upright growth habit and is vigorous. It fruits in large open/loose clusters and has shown a suitability to machine harvest.

Pollination testing has shown *Eureka Gold* to be self-fertile with 99% of pollinated flowers setting fruit.

Average Berry Weight (g)	3.6
Average Berry Size (mm)	21
Brix (°Bx)	13
Firmness (% Durofel)	70
1 st Harvest	2.9 kg/plant
2 nd Harvest	3.2kg/plant
3 rd Harvest	4.2kg/plant



— Flowering — Harvest





Management

The Management of *Eureka Gold*, particularly pruning, is key in maximising the performance and productivity of the variety. The growth habit shares more similarities with its parent *Twilight* with a strong, lignified, upright tree-like structure with a low tendency to throw new basal shoots/canes from the crown, compared to that of *Eureka*. Due to this lack of caning, strong tree-like structure, and strong apical dominance, pruning to build complexity from a young age is a necessity to avoid strong, dominant upright shoots which create a lanky, unproductive plant.

It is important to note, growing *Eureka Gold* under poly tunnels continuously does promote a very upright plant structure with elongated canes and minimal branching without proper management of the plant structure. A strong positive response is achieved by removing plastic during the growing season or growing *Eureka Gold* outside of poly tunnels.

Trials under continuous poly tunnel production showed hard prunes, particularly to lignified wood produced minimal branches compared to pruning to hardened new season growth.





The images below show before (left) and after (right) of pruning while the plants are at the nursery stage. This hard prune helps to set the structure of the plant from an early age and promote greater shoot development, branching/complexity lower down on the plant.





The same action can be undertaken at planting. See the 2 images below of the response of a similar prune undertaken when planting young cutting borne plants.



12-month-old (left) and 18-month-old (right) plants are shown below which have received approximately 4-6 structural tipping actions respectively in order to achieve complexity and maximise productivity.





The images below show a before and after prune of a 2-2.5-year-old plant which had minimal previous tipping actions to build plant structure and complexity. The hard prune has produced a great response providing multiple new shoots/branches lower on the plant. This action will be followed by tipping the new shoots once they reach ~30cm in length.

