



**BLUE HONEYSUCKLE**  
*(Lonicera caerulea)*

**Proposed denomination:** 'Boreal Beast'  
**Application number:** 16-8827  
**Application date:** 2016/02/22  
**Applicant:** University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
**Breeder:** Robert H. Bors, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

**Varieties used for comparison:** 'Boreal Blizzard' and 'Honey Bee'

**Summary:** *The one-year-old shoot of 'Boreal Beast' has no lenticels while that of 'Boreal Blizzard' has lenticels present. The bark of the one-year-old shoot of 'Boreal Beast' is dark brown whereas that of 'Boreal Blizzard' is red brown and that of 'Honey Bee' is yellow brown. The shoot tip of 'Boreal Beast' has absent or sparse pubescence whereas that of 'Honey Bee' has medium density pubescence near the expanding leaves. The buds of 'Boreal Beast' burst mid to late in the season while those of 'Honey Bee' burst early to mid-season. The leaf blade of 'Boreal Beast' is shorter than that of 'Boreal Blizzard' and longer than that of 'Honey Bee'. The shape of the leaf blade apex of 'Boreal Beast' is acute while it is rounded for 'Honey Bee'. The fruit begins to ripen mid to late season for 'Boreal Beast' and early to mid-season for 'Honey Bee'. The fruit of 'Boreal Beast' is shorter than that of 'Boreal Blizzard' and longer than that of 'Honey Bee'. In lateral view, the fruit of 'Boreal Beast' is obovate while that of 'Honey Bee' is narrow oblong. The fruit of 'Boreal Beast' has a small eye opening while the fruit of 'Boreal Blizzard' has a medium sized eye opening. The calyx end of the fruit of 'Boreal Beast' is rounded while it is truncate for 'Boreal Blizzard'. The fruit weight of 'Boreal Beast' is less than the fruit weight of 'Boreal Blizzard' while it is greater than that of 'Honey Bee'.*

**Description:**

**PLANT:** medium to strong vigour, semi-upright growth habit, medium to strong branching, mid to late season bud burst  
**ONE-YEAR OLD SHOOT:** no lenticels, absent or very sparse pubescence, dark brown bark, medium strength development of adventitious buds  
**SHOOT TIP:** absent or sparse pubescence, absent or weak glossiness of bark, medium intensity of anthocyanin colouration  
**LEAF:** moderately elongated, acute apex, absent or very sparse pubescence on lower side, medium green on upper side  
**STEM-CLASPING LEAF:** medium sized, pubescent

**FLOWER:** flowering begins mid-season, medium to dense pubescence on corolla tube, horizontal attitude, style longer than anther  
**SEPAL:** short

**FRUIT:** ripening begins mid to late season, narrow elliptic in cross-section, obovate in lateral view, rounded shape of calyx end, tip predominantly present and sometimes absent, sometimes had small tips of skin projecting from the flower ends of fruit, but sometimes this was not present, small eye opening, intermediate between smooth and rough surface, no tufts of hairs at apex except tiny hairs on some fruits  
**FRUIT SKIN:** medium degree of bloom, dark intensity of blue colour

**Origin and Breeding:** 'Boreal Beast' (experimental code 14-16-9.25) originated from a controlled cross made in 2010 at the University of Saskatchewan Plant Sciences Greenhouse, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The cross was made between the variety 'Best 2' and 'MT46.55' from the Maxine Thompson breeding program. 'Boreal Beauty' was selected in 2014 for its blooming time; fruit productivity, size and flavour; and its bush attributes for mechanical harvesting.

**Tests and Trials:** The comparative trials for 'Boreal Beast' were planted in 2016 and conducted during the 2020 and 2021 growing seasons at the University of Saskatchewan Horticulture Plots in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The trial initially consisted of 7 plants per variety, but there was some loss due to deer and rabbits. The plants were grown in 30 metre rows with 1 metre spacing between plants. The distance between rows within the trial was 3.5 metres. Guard rows were taller and

6 years older than the variety trial. Observations and measurements were taken from 7 plants, or parts of 7 plants, of each variety. Mean differences were significant at the 5% probability level based on a paired Student's t-test.

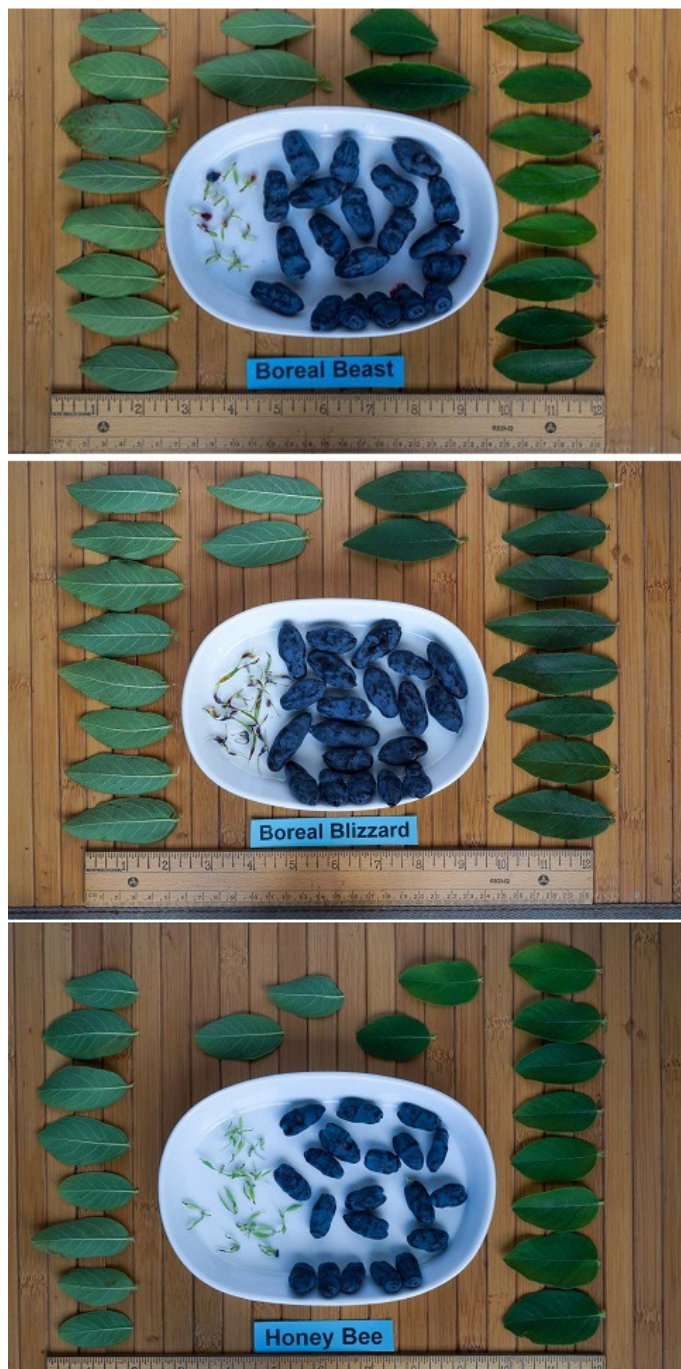
**Comparison table for 'Boreal Beast'**

	<b>'Boreal Beast'</b>	<b>'Boreal Blizzard'*</b>	<b>'Honey Bee'*</b>
<i>Leaf length (cm)</i>			
mean	5.7	6.7	4.7
std. deviation	0.60	0.54	0.41
<i>Fruit length (cm)</i>			
mean	2.9	3.4	2.4
std. deviation	0.19	0.39	0.16
<i>Fruit weight (grams)</i>			
mean	2.34	3.05	1.60
std. deviation	0.22	0.45	0.21

\*reference varieties



Blue Honeysuckle: 'Boreal Beast' (top left) with reference varieties 'Boreal Blizzard' (bottom left) and 'Honey Bee' (bottom right)



Blue Honeysuckle: 'Boreal Beast' (top) with reference varieties 'Boreal Blizzard' (centre) and 'Honey Bee' (bottom)

**Proposed denomination:** 'Boreal Beauty'  
**Application number:** 14-8411  
**Application date:** 2014/08/05  
**Applicant:** University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
**Breeder:** Robert H. Bors, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

**Varieties used for comparison:** 'Boreal Blizzard' and 'Honey Bee'

**Summary:** *The plants of 'Boreal Beauty' have medium density branching whereas the plants of 'Honey Bee' have strong branching. The one-year-old shoot of 'Boreal Beauty' has no lenticels while that of 'Boreal Blizzard' has lenticels present. The bark of the one-year-old shoot of 'Boreal Beauty' is red brown whereas that of 'Honey Bee' is yellow brown. The shoot tip of 'Boreal Beauty' has absent or sparse pubescence whereas that of 'Honey Bee' has medium density pubescence near the expanding leaves. The buds of 'Boreal Beauty' burst late in the season while those of 'Boreal Blizzard' burst mid-season and those of 'Honey Bee' early to mid-season. The leaf blade of 'Boreal Beauty' is shorter than that of 'Boreal Blizzard' and longer than that of 'Honey Bee'. The shape of the leaf blade apex of 'Boreal Beauty' is obtuse while it is acute for 'Boreal Blizzard' and rounded for 'Honey Bee'. The plants begin flowering and the fruits begin ripening late in the season for 'Boreal Beauty', mid-season for 'Boreal Blizzard' and early to mid-season for 'Honey Bee'. The fruit of 'Boreal Beauty' is ovate (in lateral view) with a small eye opening and is shorter than that of 'Boreal Blizzard', which is narrow oblong and obovate (in lateral view) with a medium sized eye opening. The fruit of 'Boreal Beauty' is heavier than that of 'Honey Bee'. The calyx end of the fruit of 'Boreal Beauty' is truncate while it is rounded for 'Boreal Blizzard'. The bloom on the fruit skin of 'Boreal Beauty' is of medium degree while that of the reference varieties is weak.*

**Description:**

PLANT: medium vigour, semi-upright growth habit, medium branching, late season bud burst

ONE-YEAR OLD SHOOT: no lenticels, absent or very sparse pubescence, red brown bark, medium strength development of adventitious buds

SHOOT TIP: absent or sparse pubescence, absent or weak glossiness of bark, weak intensity of anthocyanin colouration

LEAF: moderately elongated, obtuse apex, absent or very sparse pubescence on lower side, medium green on upper side

STEM-CLASPING LEAF: medium sized, pubescent

FLOWER: flowering begins late season, sparse to medium density pubescence on corolla tube, horizontal attitude, style longer than anther

SEPAL: short

FRUIT: ripening begins late season, narrow elliptic in cross-section, ovate in lateral view, truncate shape of calyx end, tip present, small eye opening, smooth surface, no tufts of hairs at apex

FRUIT SKIN: medium degree of bloom, medium intensity of blue colour

**Origin and Breeding:** 'Boreal Beauty' (experimental code 21-12-11.4) originated from a controlled cross made in 2010 at the University of Saskatchewan Horticulture Research Plots, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The cross was made between the variety '6-16-30' and '6-25-52' from the Maxine Thompson breeding program. 'Boreal Beauty' was selected in 2014 for its blooming time; fruit productivity, size and flavour; and its bush attributes for mechanical harvesting.

**Tests and Trials:** The comparative trials for 'Boreal Beauty' were planted in 2016 and conducted during the 2020 and 2021 growing seasons at the University of Saskatchewan Horticulture Plots in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The trial initially consisted of 7 plants per variety, but there was some loss due to deer and rabbits. The plants were grown in 30 metre rows with 1 metre spacing between plants. The distance between rows within the trial was 3.5 metres. Guard rows were taller and 6 years older than the variety trial. Observations and measurements were taken from 7 plants, or parts of 7 plants, of each variety. Mean differences were significant at the 5% probability level based on a paired Student's t-test.

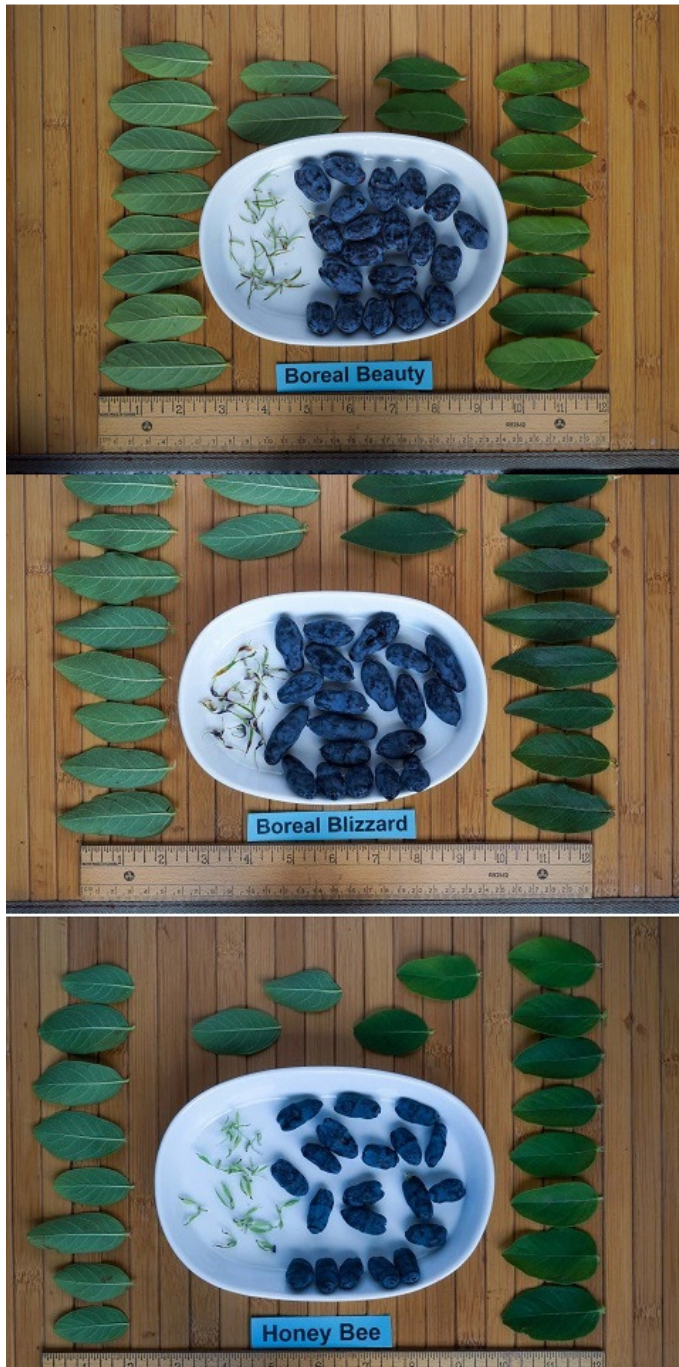
**Comparison table for 'Boreal Beauty'**

	'Boreal Beauty'	'Boreal Blizzard'*	'Honey Bee'*
<i>Leaf length (cm)</i>			
mean	5.9	6.7	4.7
std. deviation	0.64	0.54	0.41
<i>Fruit length (cm)</i>			
mean	2.6	3.4	2.4
std. deviation	0.21	0.39	0.16
<i>Fruit weight (grams)</i>			
mean	3.19	3.05	1.60
std. deviation	0.37	0.45	0.21

\*reference varieties



Blue Honeysuckle: 'Boreal Beauty' (top right) with reference varieties 'Boreal Blizzard' (bottom left) and 'Honey Bee' (bottom right)



Blue Honeysuckle: 'Boreal Beauty' (top) with reference varieties 'Boreal Blizzard' (centre) and 'Honey Bee' (bottom)