

Giant blueberry smashes record for heaviest ever

18th March 2024



A farmer in Australia has just entered the record books for growing the world's biggest ever blueberry. The giant berry weighed in at a mammoth 20.4 grams. This obliterated the previous record, which was 16.2 grams. The record-breaker had a

width the size of that of a table tennis ball, a diameter of 39.31 millimetres, and a 12.35-centimetre circumference. The record-breaking berry was almost 70 times heavier than a regular blueberry. The fruit was grown by staff at the Costa Group in New South Wales, Australia. Senior horticulturalist Brad Hocking said he was overjoyed to have the record officially verified by Guinness World Records. He said: "It's a combination of good breeding and good growing."

Mr Hocking said his blueberry was from the Eterna variety, known for its crisp texture and long shelf life. He told reporters: "Eterna, as a variety, has a really great flavour and a consistently large fruit. When we picked this one, there were probably around 20 other berries of a similar size." He added: "While the fruit is large, there's absolutely no compromise on quality or flavour, as would be expected when developing a premium variety." At first, he was unsure whether he had broken the record. He said: "We had to recalibrate the scales to make sure we weren't getting mixed up." When asked what he would do with his prize berry, he suggested a smoothie might be the most fitting end for it.

Sources: [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com) / [guinnessworldrecords.com](https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com) / [abc.net.au](https://www.abc.net.au)

Writing

Scientists should engineer more giant fruit. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

farmer / Australia / record books / blueberry / record-breaker / fruit / overjoyed / texture / shelf life / flavour / berries / premium / compromise / scales / smoothie

True / False

- 1) An Austrian farmer has just grown the world's biggest blueberry. T / F
- 2) The record-breaking blueberry was 16.2 grams. T / F
- 3) The blueberry had a diameter of 39.31 millimetres. T / F
- 4) The blueberry weighed ten times more than a regular blueberry. T / F
- 5) The blueberry was from the Eternity variety. T / F
- 6) The farmer said the blueberry had lost its flavour due to its size. T / F
- 7) The farmer had to buy new scales to weigh the blueberry. T / F
- 8) The farmer is thinking about using the blueberry to make a smoothie. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. giant | a. superior |
| 2. obliterated | b. delighted |
| 3. regular | c. employees |
| 4. staff | d. taste |
| 5. overjoyed | e. smashed |
| 6. texture | f. apt |
| 7. flavour | g. feel |
| 8. premium | h. readjust |
| 9. recalibrate | i. gigantic |
| 10. fitting | j. standard |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about blueberries?
- c) Should scientists engineer more giant fruit?
- d) What makes a good fruit?
- e) What fruits have the best flavour?
- f) How much fruit should we eat?
- g) Should the blueberry be turned into a smoothie?
- h) What questions would you like to ask blueberry farmers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. entered the record | a. of a similar size |
| 2. This obliterated | b. circumference |
| 3. a 12.35-centimetre | c. breeding |
| 4. overjoyed to have the record | d. fitting end for it |
| 5. a combination of good | e. on quality or flavour |
| 6. known for its crisp | f. books |
| 7. around 20 other berries | g. officially verified |
| 8. no compromise | h. scales to make sure |
| 9. We had to recalibrate the | i. the previous record |
| 10. a smoothie might be the most | j. texture |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of blueberries?
- What do you think of giant fruit?
- What do you think being a blueberry farmer is like?
- What giant fruit would you like to eat?
- Are you good at growing things?
- How healthy are blueberries?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?
- What would you do with this blueberry?

Spelling

- This etteiarolbd the previous record
- a aremdiet of 39.31 millimetres
- a 12.35-centimetre ccrimefuce
- Senior tcaloutiulrhrtis
- dfvieier by Guinness World Records
- a nconaitiomb of good breeding
- known for its crisp xrtuete
- a lcoesysntitn large fruit
- no pocmioersm on quality
- developing a premium yvarite
- We had to eciralabetr the scales
- he suggested a isemooht

Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. e	3. j	4. c	5. b
6. g	7. d	8. a	9. h	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Blueberries

You think blueberries are the best fruits to become giant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their fruits shouldn't be giant. Also, tell the others which of these should never be giant (and why): bananas, water melons or strawberries.

Role B – Bananas

You think bananas are the best fruits to become giant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their fruits shouldn't be giant. Also, tell the others which of these should never be giant (and why): blueberries, water melons or strawberries.

Role C – Water Melons

You think water melons are the best fruits to become giant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their fruits shouldn't be giant. Also, tell the others which of these should never be giant (and why): bananas, blueberries or strawberries.

Role D – Strawberries

You think strawberries are the best fruits to become giant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their fruits shouldn't be giant. Also, tell the others which of these should never be giant (and why): bananas, water melons or blueberries.

Speaking –

Rank these with your partner. Put the best giant fruit at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| • Blueberries | • Dates |
| • Bananas | • Mangos |
| • Durian | • Pineapples |
| • Water melons | • Strawberries |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	F	6	F	7	F	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.