HASKAP PLANT CARE call me if you need help with anything (306) 747-1343

THIS FALL: Please plant in a trench or hole slightly bigger than the roots. Water in well. Haskap are quite sensitive to fertilizer (especially nitrogen). Use tomato food or similar 10-10-10 unless you know your garden is quite fertile already. Avoid fertilizing in the fall since the plants are dormant. Water them in well, and leave them. Overwatering at this point encourages upper regrowth, which you don’t want in the fall. A little application of sulfur couldn’t hurt since all our soil here is very alkaline. Mixing Peat Moss in with the soil and lots of compost if you have it, is good too. So is lots of rotted manure (horse or cow or chicken, pig works too if you can stand it). Haskap do like compost, and they do like mulch to keep the roots cool. Plus, a good layer of mulch keeps back the weeds. Allow the falling leaves to work their way back into the soil in the spring, avoid raking them from under the plants. They also like bone meal and fish fertilizer. It is normal after fruiting for the plants to look terrible, brown, and sunburnt and they always come back in spring, fresh and green.

**WINTER:** Haskap are extremely hardy and tolerate most SK winters. We’ve never had issues with anything down to -45C. Mulched or not, they don’t seem to care much one way or another. They prefer to be a little sheltered from the heavy winds if possible. We’ve had ours completely covered in snow drifts and they seem to tolerate that well.

**SPRING:** It is normal for the Haskap to wake up earlier than most trees and shrubs. Normally they start budding out and flower before they leaf out (end of April into early May). Don’t be too concerned about cold weather during flowering or even a bit of snow. They don’t care up to almost -10C. If it goes below -12C, they will fruit more slowly.

**FRUITING**: the trick with fruiting is to count 6 weeks from the day you see maximum flower drop to figure out when you’ll be likely to pick. Try to encourage wild bees. They love Haskap. About 3 weeks after the flowers fall off, make EVERY EFFORT to net against birds. If you don’t, just when you think you are ready to pick, the birds will sneak every last one. Count 17 days to 3 weeks (or even 4 weeks) after the fruit starts to turn blue before you pick them. Fruit is ripe ONLY when the middle is not green, not when the outside is all blue. They should be red through the seed area.

**VARIETIES:** You were sold two types, Indigo Gem are the shorter sprawling ones, and the Berry Blue is the taller ones that grow quite quickly. Indigo Gem are great for fresh eating. Berry Blue produces more, but they are a bit tart. They make the best jam! Remember, the fruiting happens next year on the new wood that grows this year.

**PRUNING:** Prune in early spring before the flowers come out. Cut out all dead or crossing branches. Cut anything too low to the ground. Every 2-3 years aerate through the middle by cutting out about 1/3 of the branches. You can prune around the base every year if you like. Remember, if you cut out branches, the new ones that grow in won’t fruit until the following year. Every 6-8 years we cut the plant back completely and give it a year rest. Fertilize well after you do that.