



# THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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## Chester County Celebrates Berry Month

WEST CHESTER, Pa. – Forget February, July may be the sweetest month of the year in Chester County. As temperatures rise, shoppers are looking forward to blueberries, blackberries, and black and red raspberries in profusion, as well as some lesser known fruits worth searching for.

Art Whitehair, event coordinator at [Highland Orchards](#) (West Chester, Pa.) says their fields have been full of families participating in the time-honored tradition of pick-your-own berries this season. "It's mostly moms and kids during the week and then the dads join in on the weekend," says Whitehair. The farm also gets "serious pickers" who will drive from far away to get certain berries for pies or preserves.

Highland Orchards offers pick-your-own fruit, as well as sells it in their store for those with less enthusiasm for getting their hands dirty. Whitehair says their blueberries and black raspberries are ripe for picking now.

Peter Flynn, of the eponymous [Pete's Produce Farm](#) (Westtown, Pa.), says his blueberries have gotten a great start and that raspberries are soon to follow.

"My favorite way to eat berries is with a little sugar sprinkled on them or even just straight," says Flynn. "We also put them in the ice cream we make."

For those looking to rediscover berries from bygone era, [Hill Creek Farm](#) (Pottstown, Pa.) has the answer. Farmer Dorene Pasekoff loves blueberries but conditions on the farm aren't right for them. She found currant and gooseberry bushes at a plant swap when no other growers wanted to take them and has been besieged by calls from interested customers since.

"I've received so many emails asking to purchase gooseberries that I've decided to expand my plantings," says Pasekoff. "Right now, I'm just trying to stay ahead of the demand curve, which is a nice place to be in farming."

A good source of vitamin C and fiber, berries are a great way to enjoy a sweet, responsible snack. They lend themselves well to use in smoothies, baked treats, glazes for savory recipes, and of course, eaten fresh out of the field or garden.