

P.L. 2003, CHAPTER 245, *approved January 12, 2004*  
Assembly, No. 3344

1 **AN ACT** designating the highbush blueberry as the New Jersey State  
2 Fruit.

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4 **WHEREAS**, The highbush blueberry is indigenous to New Jersey,  
5 where it was first cultivated for commercial production, due to  
6 pioneering work by New Jerseyan Elizabeth White and Dr.  
7 Frederick Covile, who in the early 1900's dedicated themselves to  
8 the study, domestication, and breeding of blueberries at Whitesbog,  
9 in Browns Mills, New Jersey; and

10 **WHEREAS**, The cultivation of highbush blueberries in New Jersey  
11 served as the basis for an entirely new agricultural industry; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Blueberries taste good, are good for you, are high in fiber,  
13 vitamin C, and antioxidants, are sodium and cholesterol-free, are  
14 low in calories and may provide medical and health benefits,  
15 including the prevention of cancer and heart disease; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Blueberries are appreciated around the world, especially  
17 in the area of nutrition and the emerging field of nutraceuticals,  
18 where blueberries are known for their health benefits and medicinal  
19 properties; and

20 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey ranks second in the nation in blueberry  
21 cultivation, producing 21 percent of the nation's total, with 38  
22 million pounds grown annually on 8,000 acres, spanning seven  
23 counties in central and southern New Jersey; and

24 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is widely recognized as the blueberry capital  
25 of the nation, and the highbush blueberry, also known as the "New  
26 Jersey blueberry," is the ideal symbol of a delicious, nutritious, and  
27 healthful fruit; now, therefore,

28

29 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
30 *of New Jersey:*

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32 1. The highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) is designated  
33 as the New Jersey State Fruit.

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35 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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40 This bill, inspired by Mrs. Suzanne E. Kurasz's and Mrs. Gail  
41 Damiano's fourth grade classes at Veterans Memorial Elementary  
42 School, Brick, New Jersey, designates the highbush blueberry  
43 (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) as the New Jersey State Fruit. Blueberries  
44 were first cultivated for commercial production in New Jersey,

1 resulting in an entirely new agricultural industry. The highbush  
2 blueberry is an ideal symbol of a delicious, nutritious, and healthful  
3 fruit.

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8 Designates highbush blueberry as New Jersey State Fruit.