

Apex

'FCM14-057'

OVERVIEW

Apex 'FCM14-057' is a zero and low chill variety released in 2023 for its exceptional productivity and shelf-life. The fruit maintains firmness and overall quality for 45 days postharvest, with yield potential for more than 20 tons per hectare during the second year of production. The plant has an upright shape and improved harvest efficiency – making it an excellent option to meet increased market demand for high quality fruit with greater productivity per area.

Yield per hectare estimate is based on 5,000 plants per hectare in Mexico and 4,500 plants per hectare in Spain.



FRUIT FLAVORS

The flavor of Apex 'FCM14-057' is very appealing with a balance between sweetness and acidity.



FRUIT SIZE

Apex 'FCM14-057' fruit diameter is on average 20.8 mm with half of the fruit greater than 18 mm.



FIRM

FRUIT FIRMNESS

The fruit of Apex 'FCM14-057' is firm, with an average FirmTech of 277 g/mm the day after harvest. It has significantly greater firmness than Ventura.

FRUIT COLOR

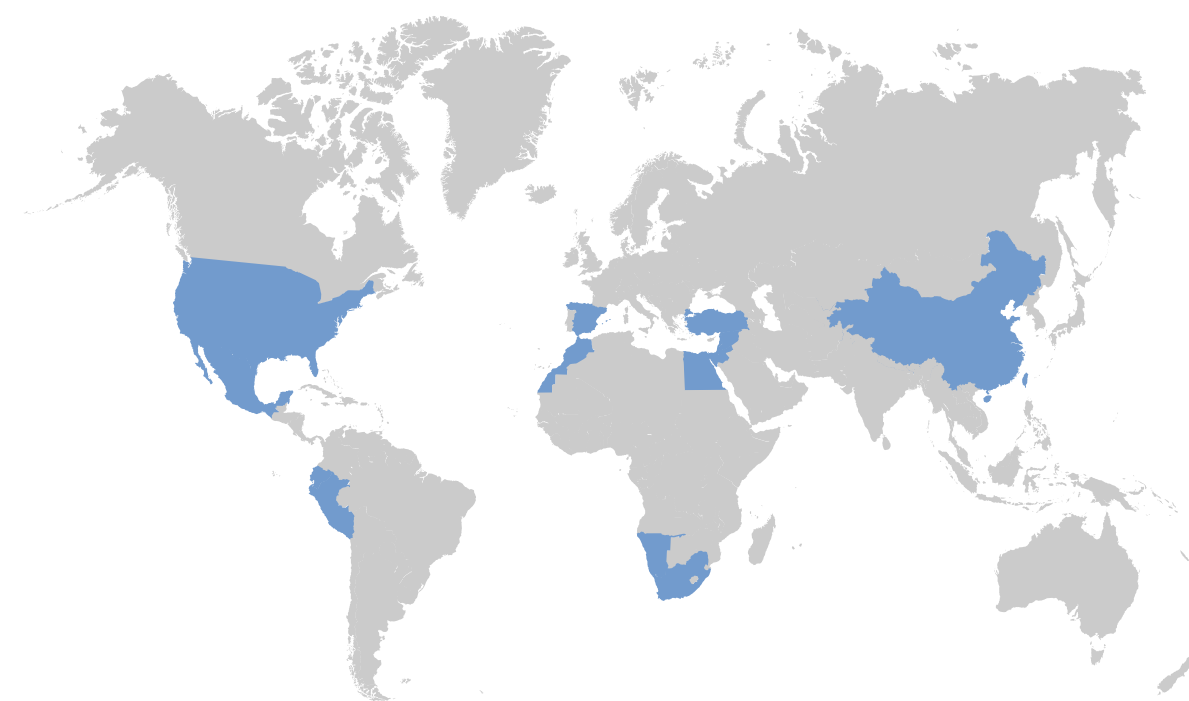
^{Ventura}



CONSIDERATIONS

Heavy pruning is not recommended, and nutrition should be managed to limit excessive plant height. A cleaning prune is recommended with the first three months after planting.

GROWING REGIONS



VERY GOOD
4/5

YIELD

Apex 'FCM14-057' yields are strong when comparing it to Ventura at Fall Creek® Research Farms in both Spain and Mexico.

VERY GOOD
4/5

HARVEST EFFICIENCY

Apex 'FCM14-057' has high harvest efficiency and is considered an easy plant to harvest due to its upright and open plant shape with large fruit that is very accessible.

45
DAYS

FRUIT STORAGE

Even with over a month in cold storage, Apex 'FCM14-057' maintains flavor and superior firmness.

EARLY -MID

FRUIT SEASON

The peak harvest of Apex 'FCM14-057' is during the early to mid-window.

EXPERT CORNER

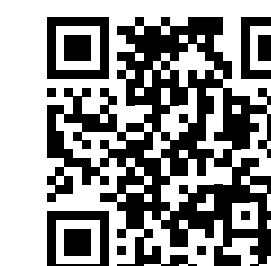


Apex 'FCM14-057' sets a new precedent for fruit quality in the Fall Creek® Collection. I've been impressed with its grower-friendly attributes in traditional low chill Evergreen systems and some zero chill geographies. Market expectations in quality are rising fast and this genotype shows unique potential to empower an improved consumer experience while addressing the needs of the lower chill growing industry."

CORT BRAZELTON
FALL CREEK® FARM
AND NURSERY, INC.

VARIETY VIDEO

Learn more about Fall Creek® Varieties using the QR code below.



youtube.com/FallCreek

Yield

Plants of Apex 'FCM14-057' have a very upright shape and produce fruit from both primocane and floricanes buds. It is adaptable to zero and low chill regions with evergreen management, although more trials are being conducted in deciduous systems. This new variety surpasses the yield potential for established varieties and can go beyond the yield of leading new varieties.

The Fall Creek® Research Farm in Huelva, Spain is considered low chill and managed under tunnels without dormancy (evergreen). The Fall Creek® Research Farm in Tala, Mexico is zero chill.

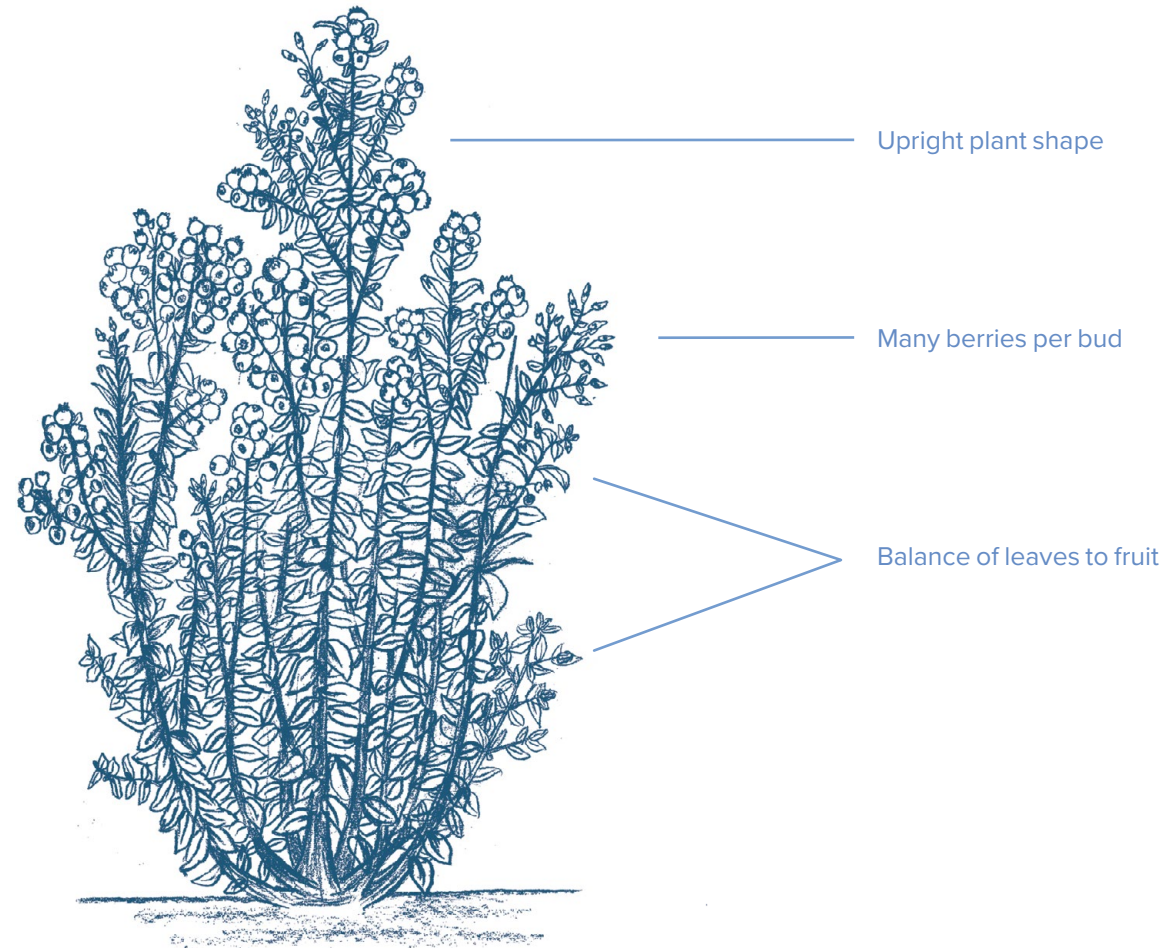
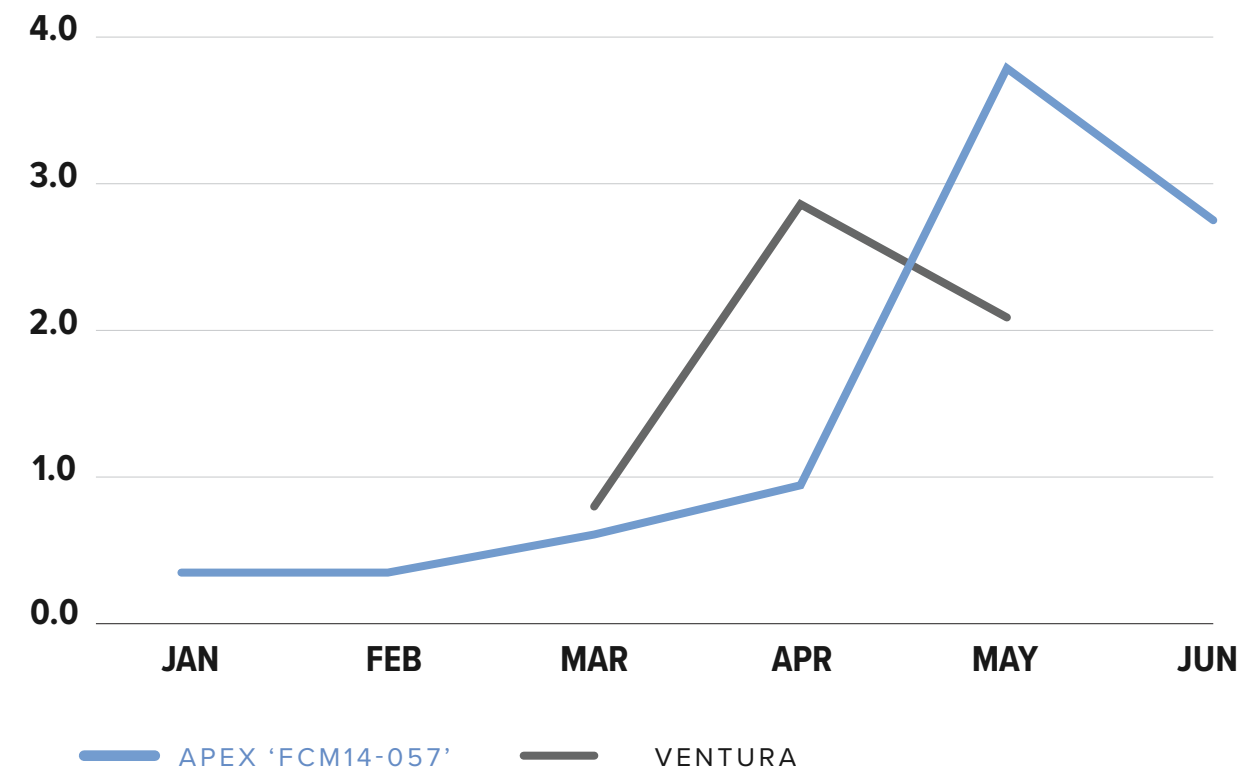


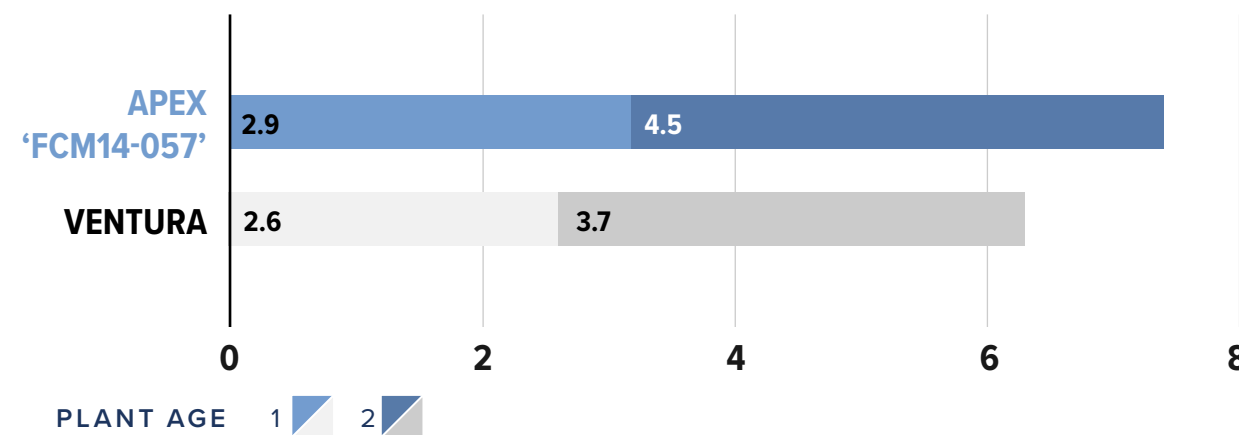
DIAGRAM COURTESY OF CRISTIAN ROJAS

SPAIN YIELD BY MONTH KG/PLANT



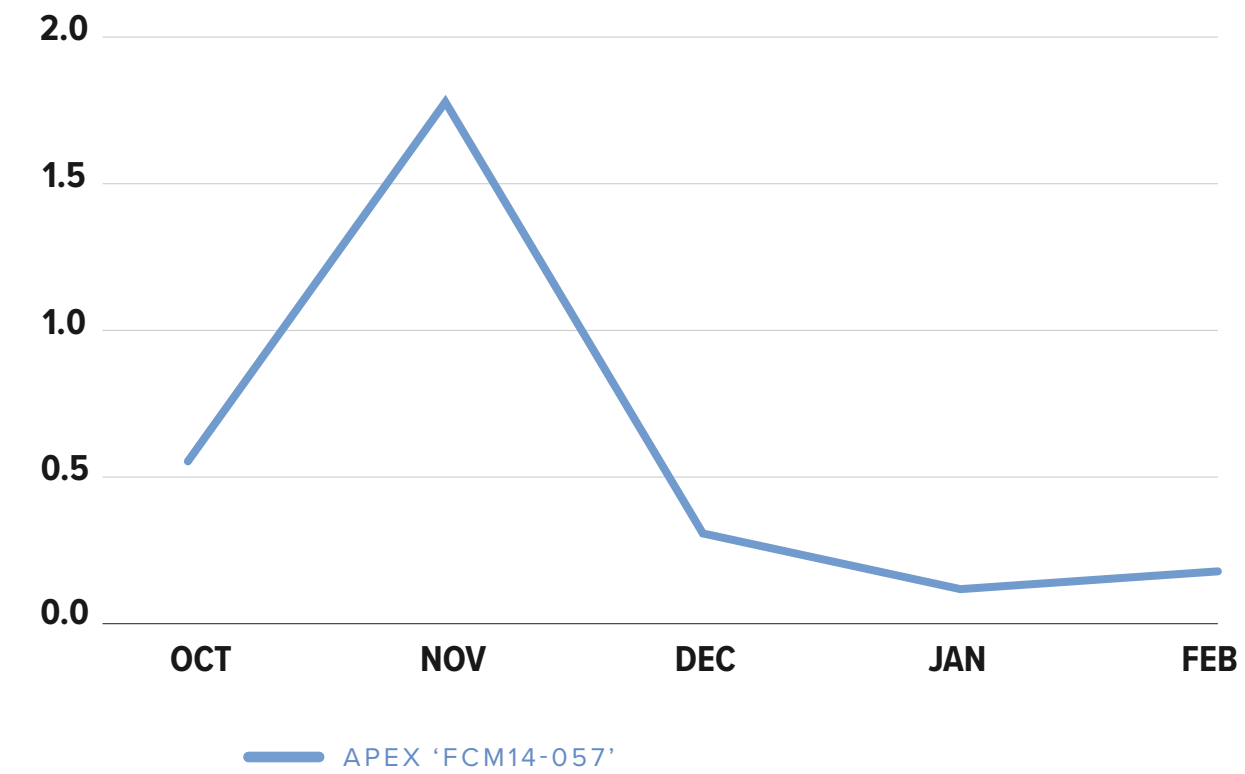
The Apex 'FCM14-057' production season begins in the early window in Spain, before Ventura. Harvest can continue up to 4 months with a strong peak in April and May.

SPAIN YIELD BY PLANT AGE KG



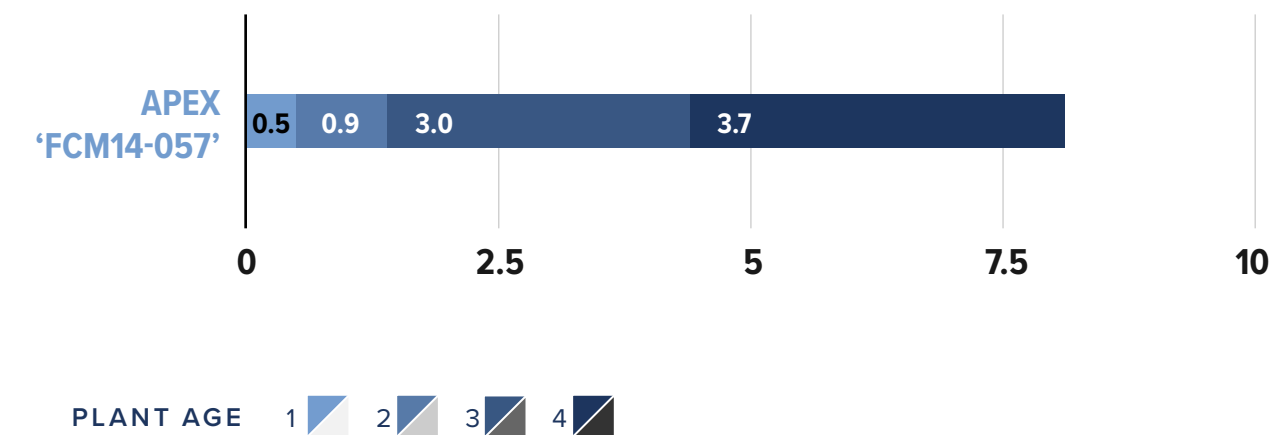
Apex 'FCM14-057' yields more than Ventura in the first and second year of production. To learn more about managing this exciting yield potential, visit the Fall Creek® Research Farm in Spain!

MEXICO YIELD BY MONTH KG/PLANT



In Mexico, production for Apex 'FCM14-057' begins more than a month before Ventura and AtlasBlue® 'FCM12-045. Pruning in March results in a steep peak production in the second month of production (November). This variety has an extended season and can be harvested until February.

MEXICO YIELD BY PLANT AGE KG



Apex 'FCM14-057' is a high-yielding variety with 3 kilograms per plant in the third season.

EXPERT CORNER



"We were excited about Apex 'FCM14-057' when we first saw the plant, and its fruits, in field trials. Now growing it in our farms in Morocco, we are seeing a product which we believe will please both consumers and growers, which is the key to a successful variety. The fruit is crunchy with a well-rounded flavour, meaning retailers can put it on shelf with confidence, and consumers can enjoy eating it time after time. The plant is fast growing and consistent, making a great platform for our farmers to do what they do best – grow high quality fruit at scale!"

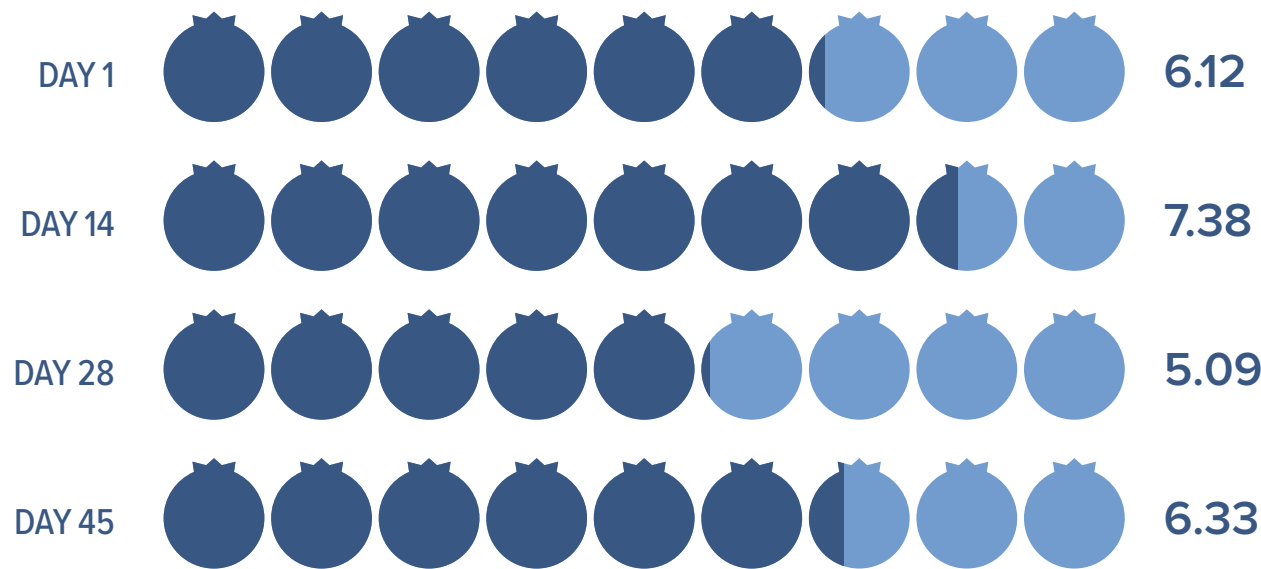
BEGNAT ROBICHAUD
INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR
IBERRY, MOROCCO

Taste Test

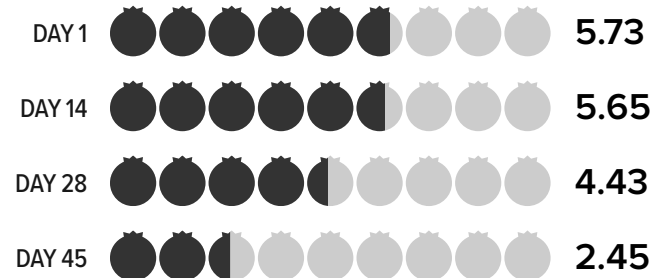
Every year the Fall Creek® breeders evaluate hundreds of different varieties and upcoming genetics. These evaluations include a dozen attributes, focusing on flavor and texture. The large, consistent fruit size with great texture was a strong contributor to the release decision of Apex 'FCM14-057'.

The *Overall Score* for cold storage is a combined value of internal firmness, external firmness, flavor, appearance, and severity of disorders (such as mold or shrivel).

APEX 'FCM14-057'



VENTURA

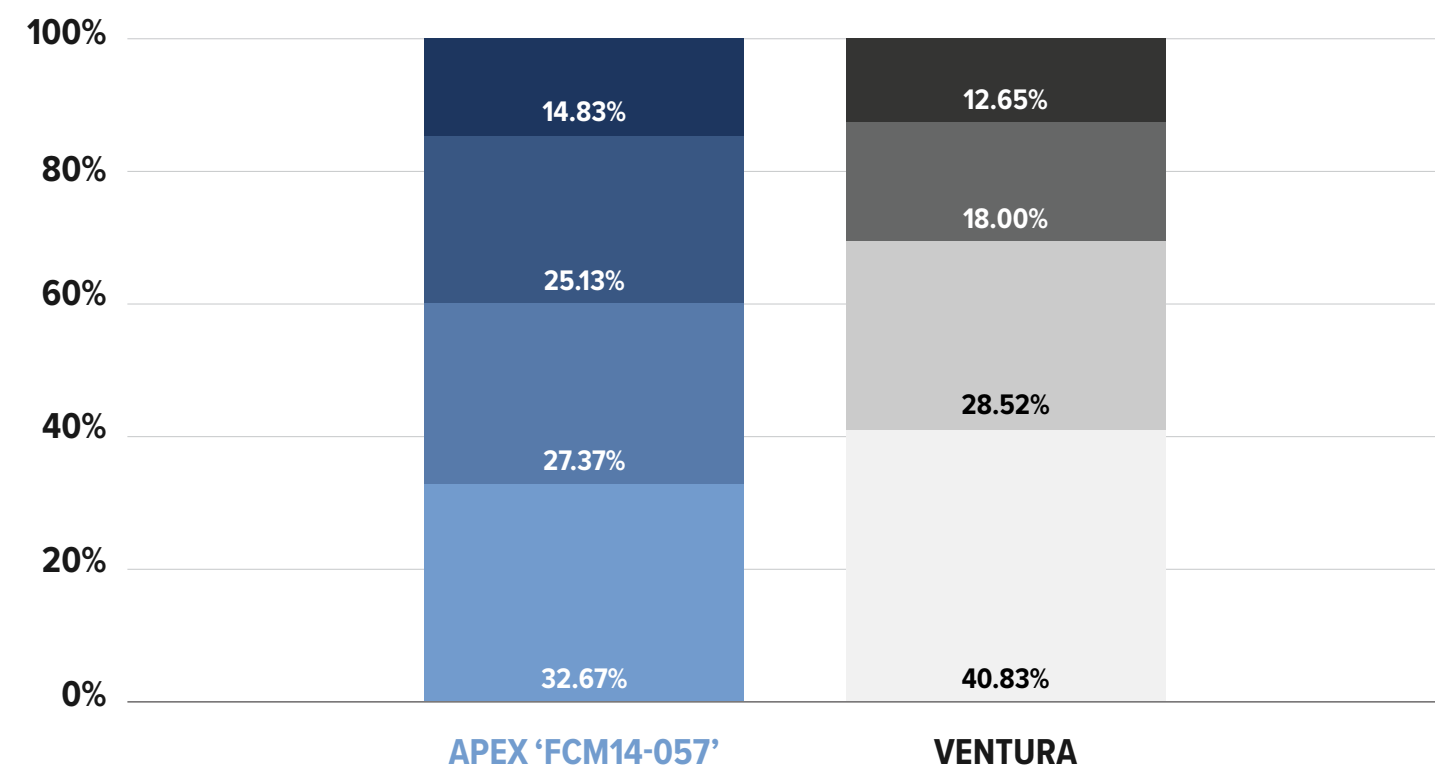


Fruit Size by Class

A primary advantage of Apex 'FCM14-057' is the consistency of fruit size across the season. While many varieties, like Biloxi, see a drastic decrease in size after the first few harvests, the majority of Apex 'FCM14-057' fruit is greater than 16mm. Upwards of 40% of the fruit is greater than 18mm.

Data is collected throughout the entire harvest season and averaged across multiple plots and years.

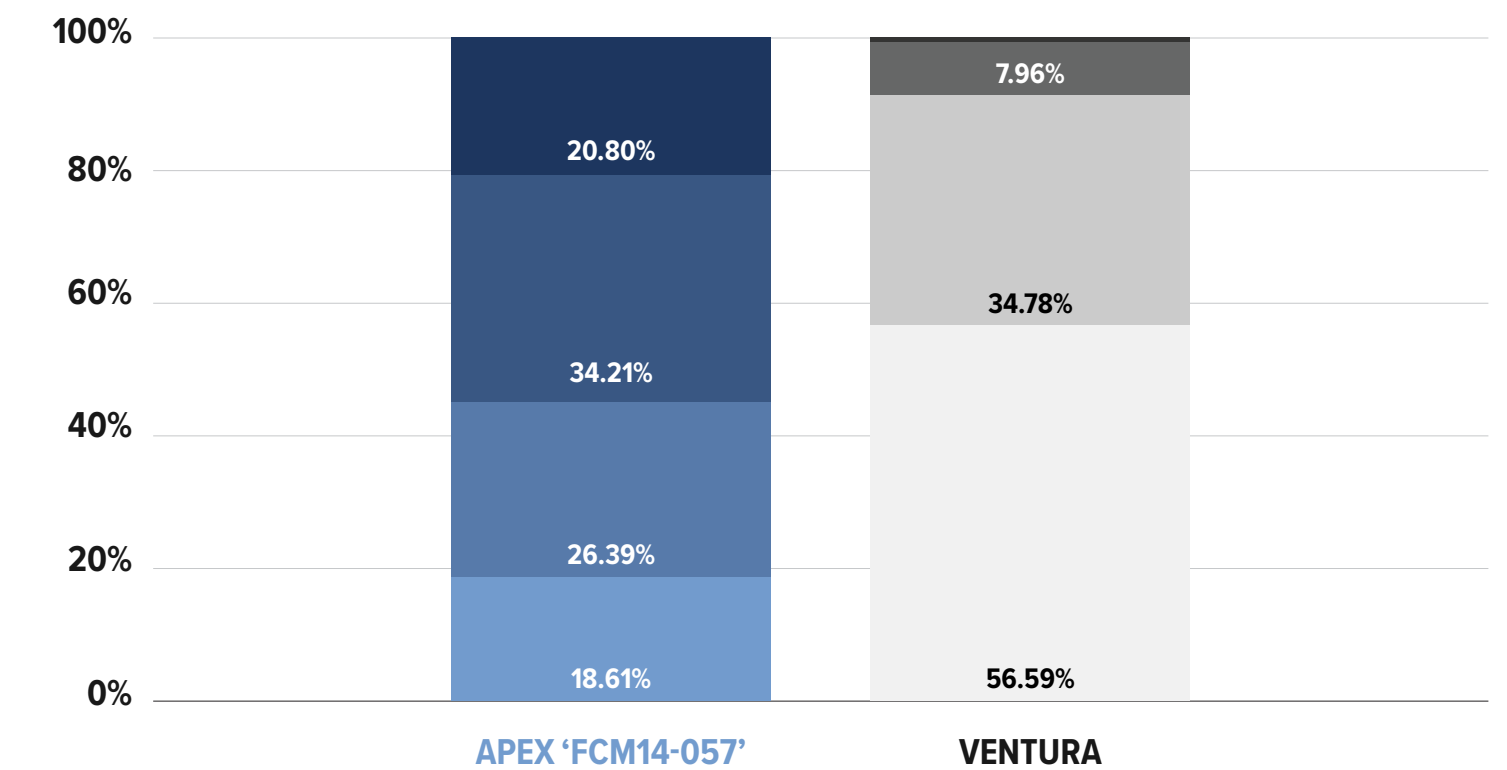
SPAIN



FRUIT SIZES ■ <16MM ■ 16-18MM ■ 18-21MM ■ >21MM

With 40% of the berries over 18mm, Apex 'FCM14-057' has consistently larger fruit compared to Ventura. The average berry diameter in Spain is 22.0mm and the average weight is 2.9g. In primocane, about 80% of the fruit is greater than 18mm. In floricanes, the size can decrease, but is still greater than 16mm.

MEXICO



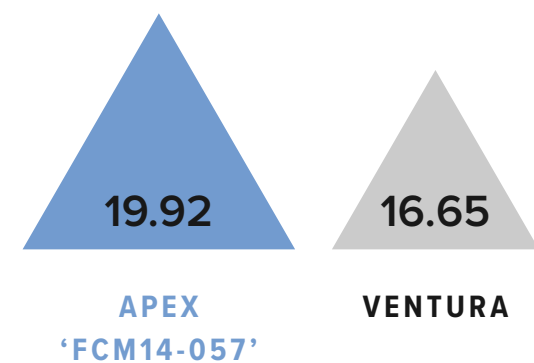
FRUIT SIZES ■ <16MM ■ 16-18MM ■ 18-21MM ■ >21MM

Over 50% of Apex 'FCM14-057' fruit is greater than 18mm with nearly a quarter of the total harvest greater than 21mm. Compared to Ventura, this variety has more fruit in the largest fruit category and Apex 'FCM14-057' has nearly 40% less fruit in the smallest category.

Flavor

SUGAR ACID RATIO

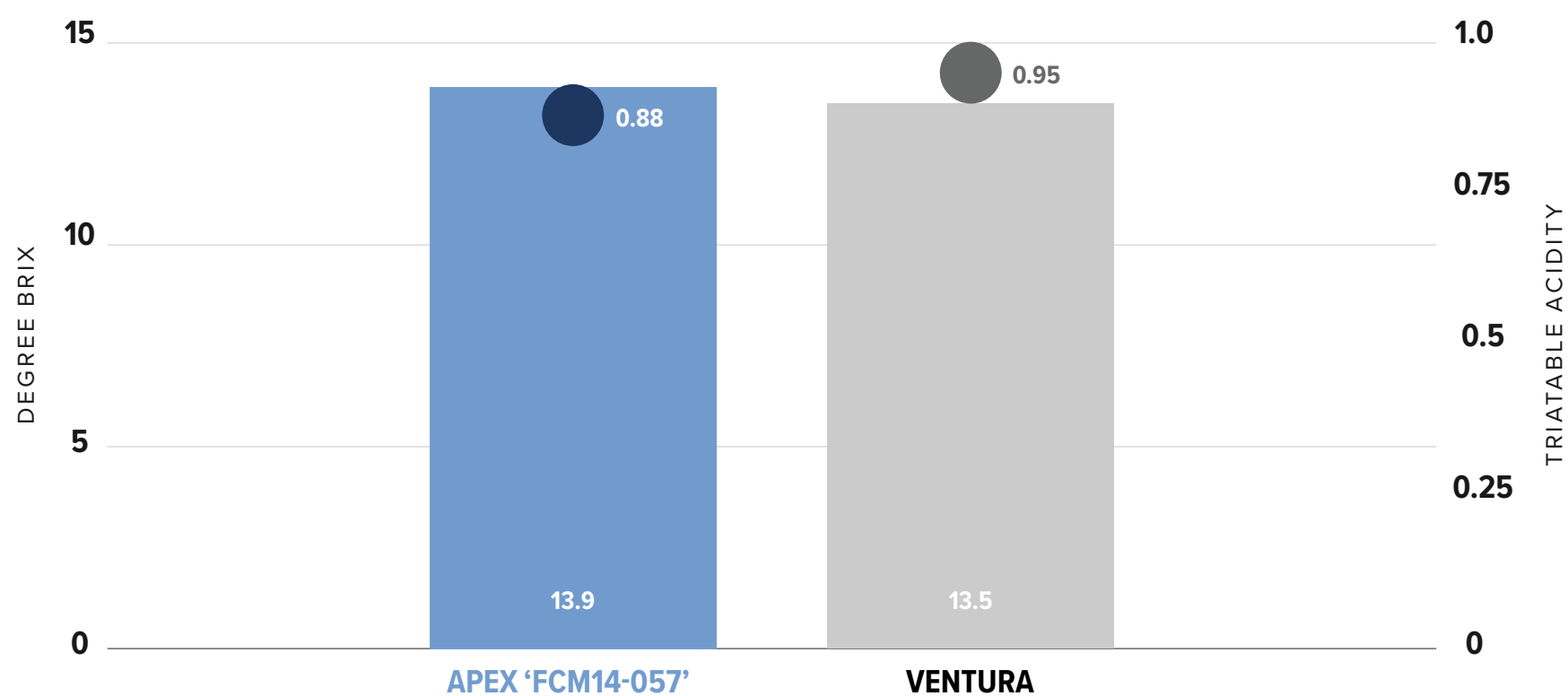
How we perceive berry flavor is a complex mix of traits - including sugar and acid levels. The figure on the right shows the ratio of brix (sugar) to acid. This ratio is the simplest way to summarize perceived sweetness. Apex 'FCM14-057' has a sugar/acid ratio superior to Ventura, with a high brix and middle-high acid. The higher acid contributes to Apex 'FCM14-057's excellent storability without a bland eating experience.



The sugar acid ratio is the average soluble solid content (degree brix) divided by titratable acidity (% citric acid).

SOLUBLE SOLID CONTENT (DEGREE BRUX) AND TRIATABLE ACIDITY (% CITRIC ACID)

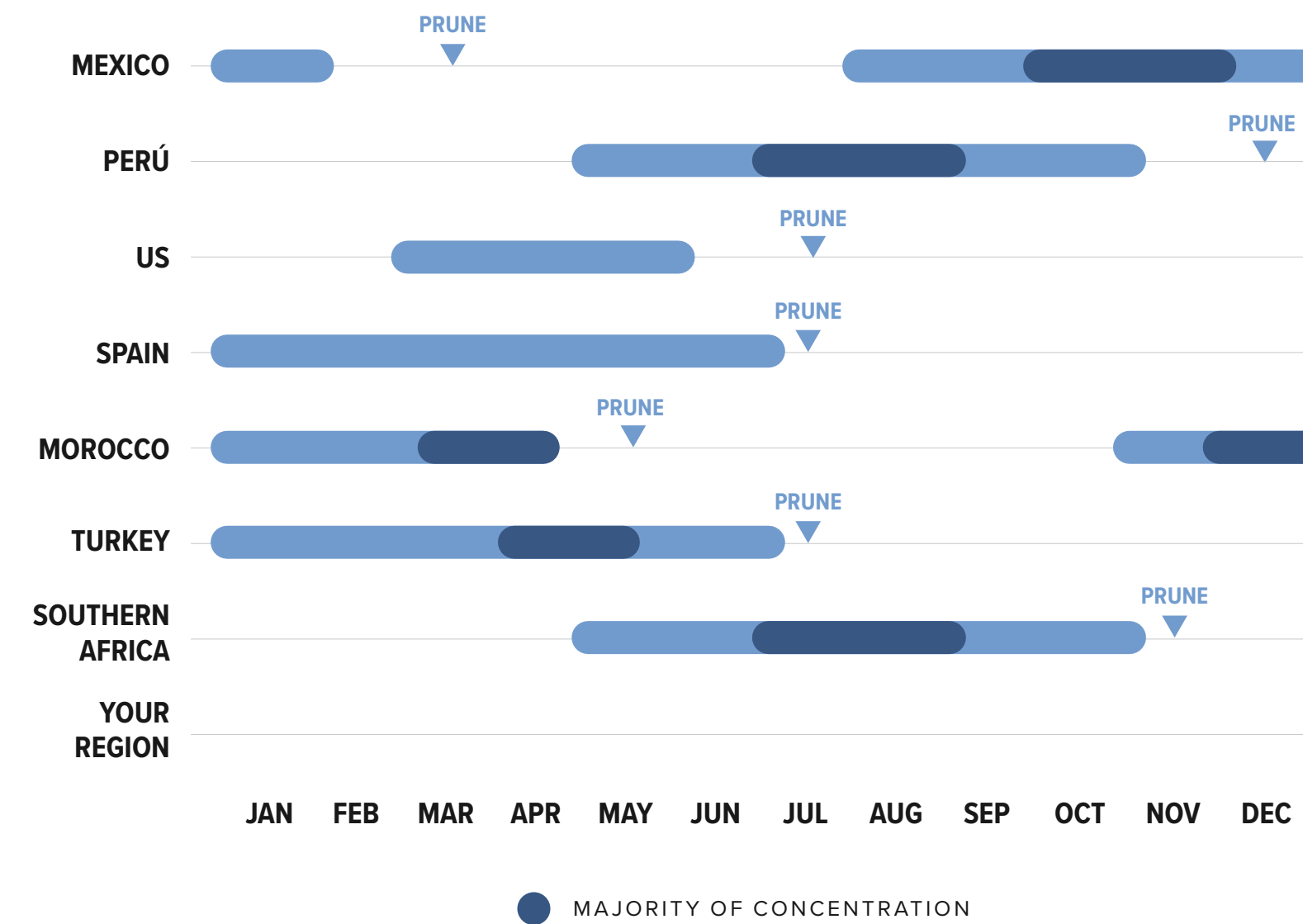
The figure below shows the brix and acidity of Apex 'FCM14-057' compared to other widely planted varieties. Results are averaged across trial locations because the results are very similar regardless of location.



■ SOLUBLE SOLID CONTENT (DEGREE BRUX)
 ■ TRIATABLE ACIDITY (% CITRIC ACID)

Fruit Seasonality

Apex 'FCM14-057' is an early to mid-season variety that produces both primocane and floricanes fruit.



Ripening time is highly dependent on the time of pruning in many regions. Apex 'FCM14-057' is not photoperiod sensitive so harvest timing can be manipulated with pruning. For more information about when to expect harvest to begin in your region, contact your local Grower Support Representative.

Seasonality in this graphic is only based on zero and low-chill growing regions within each country.

CONTACT US

To learn more about Fall Creek®'s blueberry varieties please contact our Sales and customer service teams in your region

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