



Pick Your Own Blueberries, Raspberries, and More Fruit Near NYC

The strawberry season is short and sweet near NYC. If, like me, you can't squeeze a trip to a strawberry patch into your family's schedule, plan instead an outing for juicy blueberry, blackberry, and raspberry picking when school is out. These berries are usually in season July through the end of August and some farms even have a second crop of raspberries that ripen later in the summer. Then, of course, there will be peach picking come August. So there is plenty of time for your family to get a fruit picking session in.

Below includes 13 spots in the tristate area, all less than 2 hours from NYC—including one accessible by mass transit—and perfect for a family berry-picking outing, plus our helpful been-there-done-that tips. A word of caution: approximate driving times below do not include traffic. You'll probably run into some, especially on summer weekends near the entrances to popular farms.

Connecticut

Bishop's Orchards — Guilford

1355 Boston Post Road

203-453-2338

About 100 minutes by car from Midtown Manhattan

The orchard offers several varieties of pick-your-own strawberries and blueberries, followed by raspberries and peaches in August that last through the fall.

Jones Family Farms — Shelton

Route 110 and Walnut Tree Hill Road

203-929-8425

About 90 minutes by car from Midtown Manhattan

Pick strawberries and blueberries at this 400-acre family farm that also offers cooking classes and a winery for grown-ups.

The low raspberry and blueberry bushes make picking easier for kids than apples in the fall.

Eastern Long Island

Lewin Farms — Calverton
812 Sound Avenue
631-929-4327

About 90 minutes by car from Midtown Manhattan

Lewin Farms is my family's go-to pick-your-own spot on Long Island. It's the first farm on the North Fork to allow you-pick in its orchards. Pluck blueberries, blackberries, and raspberries right off the stem or come back in August for a go at the peach trees.

Patty's Berries and Bunches — Mattituck
410 Sound Avenue
631-298-4679

About 95 minutes by car from Midtown Manhattan

Pick blueberries, raspberries, and blackberries at this 40-acre farm and then cool off with a scoop of locally made ice cream. There is a \$5-per-person charge to pick.

Wickham's Fruit Farm — Cutchogue
28700 Main Road (Route 25)
631-734-6441

About 105 minutes from Midtown Manhattan

A Long Island institution, Wickham's is the largest and oldest farm on the North Fork. Blueberries are available in July and August. If you pick in August you may even score a few peaches. Pickers pay up front rather than by the pound and you must use containers provided by the farm. Strollers are not allowed in the fields so be prepared to carry infants and tots.

New Jersey

Alstede Farms — Chester
1 Alstede Farms Lane
908-879-7189

About 60 minutes from Midtown Manhattan. Also accessible via New Jersey Transit
This popular fall spot also has pick-your-own blueberries and raspberries in June and July. Alstede's offers a slew of entertainment extras, including pony rides and bounce houses to enhance your visit. It is the closest farm to NYC for berry picking and you don't need a car to get here. Instead, take New Jersey Transit to the Gladstone Station and arrange for Village Taxi to drive you to the farm. There's an admission charge and most activities require tickets or a wristband. But after picking apples and pumpkins here, I can attest to how much fun this property is for kids. For a calmer experience, arrive before noon on weekdays when you just have to pay to enter the picking fields and most attractions are closed.

Demarest Farms — Hillsdale

244 Wierimus Road

201-666-0472

About 40 minutes from Midtown Manhattan

Peach picking season begins in August. The \$5 general admission fee includes free parking, admission to the peach orchard, a hay ride, petting zoo, and picnic area. You pay an additional \$10 for a bag to hold the peaches you pick!

Johnson's Corner Farm — Medford

133 Church Road

609-654-8643

About 90 minutes from Midtown Manhattan

Pick some famous New Jersey blueberries and some sweet corn right off the stalk. Bring swimsuits for a session in the splash pad or hit the hayride to round out the day.

Sussex County Strawberry Farm — Andover, New Jersey

565 Route 206 North

973-579-5055

About 75 minutes from Midtown Manhattan

This is my family's go-to spot for strawberry picking in New Jersey; we often head back in late August to pluck raspberries, too.

Terhune Orchards — Princeton

330 Cold Soil Road

609-924-2310

About 80 minutes from Midtown Manhattan

A trip to Terhune Orchards for blueberry and blackberry picking also gives kids a chance to visit the animals, walk along the farm trail, or play with the barnyard toys. There is also an extensive farm market and a winery.

New York's Hudson Valley

Fishkill Farms — Hopewell Junction

9 Fishkill Farm Road

845-897-4377

About 75 minutes by car from Midtown Manhattan

Fishkill's pick-your-own blueberries and raspberries should be ready in July. The farm also has you-pick cherries, peaches, and nectarines. Kids can visit with the small farm animals, including rabbits and chickens.

Ochs Orchard — Warwick

4 Ochs Lane

845-986-1591

About 80 minutes by car from Midtown Manhattan

Perched at the top of a hill, the orchard has gorgeous views of the Hudson Valley to enjoy while you pick. There's also a small petting zoo with ducks, goats, and other barnyard animals for the kids.

Pennsylvania

Shady Brook Farm — Yardley

931 Stony Hill Road

215-968-1670

About 90 minutes from Midtown Manhattan by car

This historic working farm and garden center in bucolic Bucks County, Pennsylvania, has blueberries and blackberries ripe for the picking. On regular, non-festival days the picking fields are accessible only via a hayride from the farm market for \$3 per person.

Good to Know Before You Go

Call ahead to confirm hours, crop availability, and prices. Many farms are small, family-run establishments that can close unexpectedly and often run out of fruit before the season ends. You can often get up-to-the minute information on their social media feeds.

While on the phone with farm personnel, confirm that they allow children to pick. I was turned away from a strawberry field when my son was a toddler.

Leave pets at home. They are not allowed at most farms.

Ditto for strollers. While they may be allowed in the main entrance, they typically are not welcome in the sensitive berry fields.

If you're thinking of a picnic, call ahead to make sure the farm allows you to bring your own food.

Locations:

Lewin Farms

812 Sound Ave

Wading River, NY 11792

(631) 929-4327

Patty's Berries and Bunches

410 Sound Avenue

Mattituck, NY

(631) 298-4679

Bishop's Orchards Farm Market and Winery

Guilford, CT 06437

(203) 453-2338

Jones Family Farms

606 Walnut Tree Hill Rd

Shelton, CT 06484
(203) 929-8425

Mead Orchards
15 Scism Rd
Tivoli, NY 12583
(845) 756-5641

Fishkill Farms
9 Fishkill Farm Rd
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
(845) 897-4377
Greig Farm
223 Pitcher Ln
Red Hook, NY 12571
(845) 758-1234

Sussex County Strawberry Farm
565 Route 206 North
Andover, NJ 07821

Johnson's Corner Farm
133 Church Road
Medford, NJ 08055

Alstede Farms
1 Alstede Farms Lane
Chester, NJ 07930

Ochs Orchard
4 Ochs Lane
Warwick, NY

Wickham's Fruit Farm
28700 Main Road (Route 25)
Cutchouge, NY

Shady Brook Farm
931 Stony Hill Road
Waverly, PA

Demarest Farms
244 Wierimus Road
Hillsdale, NJ 07642

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