

searchers has contributed greatly to the Northern Nut Growers Association. Several of the minor fruit crops offer great potential as new food crops, which if fully exploited, would contribute to the agricultural economy.

The small fruit breeding program

in New York is the only remaining program of Northeastern U.S. With continued support, and cooperation with entomologists and pathologists, new superior varieties will be developed and released for commercial production.

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## 'Stark Early Loring' — A Mid-Season Freestone Peach

JERRY FRECON<sup>1</sup>

'Stark Early Loring' is a very good quality, large, firm-fleshed yellow freestone ripening 10 to 14 days before 'Loring.' In several test winters, during varying cold periods, 'Early Loring' has cropped more consistently than its parent, 'Loring.'

### Origin

'Stark Early Loring' is a limb mutation of 'Loring' discovered by Mr. Frederick Beyer of McCracken County, Kentucky, in 1965. The variety was first propagated by Mr. W. D. Armstrong of the University of Kentucky in 1966, and tested by Charles Beyer of McCracken County in their fruit growing operations. Patent No. 4170 was granted to Frederick Beyer in 1977 and has been assigned as a variety for exclusive sales and distribution to Stark Bro's Nurseries & Orchards Company, Louisiana, Missouri.

### Fruit Characteristics

'Stark Early Loring' is a medium-to

large round, yellow-fleshed freestone peach with a slight amount of red in the flesh around the pit. It is very firm, similar to 'Loring' in both texture and quality. The overall appearance is identical to its parent, 'Loring,' with the exception of being slightly smaller in size on a consistent basis and having more red color in the skin. The fruit ripens 10-14 days on the average, ahead of 'Loring.' It achieves an 80% over-all red color well in advance of the date at which it would soften.

### Tree Characteristics

'Stark Early Loring' is healthy, vigorous, highly productive. The variety has been evaluated in Stark Bro's, Louisiana, Missouri, test orchard for seven years. It is somewhat more vigorous than 'Loring' and has been on the average, more productive and consistent cropping on test sites and at the point of origin. Flowers are large and showy.

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<sup>1</sup>Director of Research, Stark Bro's Nurseries, Louisiana, MO.