

Summer Pearl Peach¹

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Summer Pearl is a firm, white-fleshed, freestone peach which ripens three to four weeks after Redhaven or between Loring and Cresthaven. Tested as NJ252, Summer Pearl was introduced by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station to fill the need for a firm, white, mid-season peach. Summer Pearl is the first of a series of firm, white-fleshed peaches to be released.

White peaches ripening earlier than White Hale have medium-to-soft flesh. The lack of white-fleshed cultivars equal to yellow-fleshed cultivars in firmness and quality has resulted in a lack of interest and subsequent decline in acreage for all markets other than local retail sales by growers.

Summer Pearl originated from a cross between two numbered selections made in 1965 by Drs. Catherine H. Bailey and L. Fredric Hough. The pedigree is displayed in Fig. 1. NJN5 is a cross between Garden State nectarine and 25032, a nectarine selected from pits purchased for rootstocks. Summer Pearl is heterozygous for yellow flesh, non-melting flesh, clingstone, and nectarine traits.

Summer Pearl was selected in 1972 because of its firmness, white flesh, flavor, and attractive skin color. The selection was designated NJ252 and distributed to members of the New Jersey Peach Council. It is now being named and distributed by nurseries in the United States interested in marketing quality white-fleshed peaches.

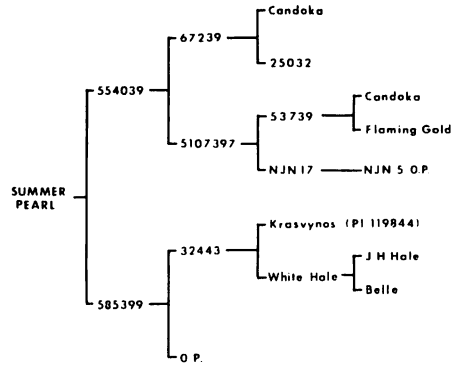


Fig. 1. Pedigree of Summer Pearl Peach.

The fruit of Summer Pearl matures the last week in August in Cream Ridge, New Jersey, just before Cresthaven and three to four weeks after Redhaven. Fruits are globose to oblong with a slight suture, and medium to large in size. The skin is one quarter to three quarters red on a cream-white ground color. The flesh is white with bright red coloration at the pit. Its outstanding characteristics are its firmness and excellent flavor. The flavor is rich with a good balance of sugar and acid, and with less astringency and bitterness than Belle of Georgia.

Summer Pearl blooms in midseason. The flowers are pink, small, and non-showy. The leaves have reniform glands. Unlike White Hale and Honeydew Hale, it is self-fruitful. Flower buds are more resistant than Loring to winter cold damage, although less hardy than Redhaven or Cresthaven.

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Trees of Summer Pearl are large, vigorous, and productive. Leaves and fruit are moderately tolerant to infection by bacterial leaf spot, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *pruni*. No other unusual susceptibilities to insects or diseases have been noted.

Trees and budwood of Summer Pearl have been distributed for testing in Arkansas, Missouri, Michigan, and New York. Trees are now being sold by Stark Brothers Nurseries and Orchards Co., Louisiana, Missouri.

Disease Resistant Apple Released

Freedom, a new disease resistant apple, has been released by Cornell University's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva.

Official naming of the apple took place as part of the annual meeting of the New York State Fruit Testing Cooperative Association, Inc. held on the Station's campus. Some 300 members of the Association attended the meeting which included a large display of new and promising fruit varieties being studied by Station scientists.

Freedom is the second disease resistant apple released by the Station. The first was Liberty, named in 1978. Both varieties are resistant to the four major diseases affecting apple—apple scab, powdery mildew, cedar apple rust, and fire blight.

Freedom is a "very productive, large, attractive apple of good quality that can be used either for the fresh market or for processing," according to Dr. Robert C. Lamb, professor of

pomology and the plant breeder responsible for development of the new variety. The variety blooms about May 15 at Geneva or approximately 3 days after McIntosh. It is considered a midseason bloomer. It produces good pollen and has been used successfully as a pollen parent with many varieties. It is also winter hardy. Freedom ripens about October 5 at Geneva, or at the same time as Delicious.

Fruit of Freedom is large, oblate in shape with 80 per cent bright red stripes on a yellow background. The flesh is cream colored, firm, medium fine, tender, and juicy. Freedom will keep in refrigerated storage until January.

A patent is pending for Freedom. Trees are available from the New York State Fruit Testing Cooperative Association, Inc. and from other nurseries who wish to apply for a license to sell it.