

'Stark^R Saturn' Peach¹

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'Stark Saturn' is a flat peach [*Prunus persica* (L.) Batsch var. *platycarpa* Bailey] for fresh market ripening approximately with 'Redhaven.' Fruits are freestone with very sweet white flesh. Levels of flower bud hardiness and resistance to bacterial spot [*Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *pruni* (Smith) Young et al.] are very good. 'Stark Saturn' offers a unique combination of hardiness, disease resistance, and delicious fruit of an unusual shape.

Origin

'Stark Saturn' resulted from the cross 'Pallas' x selected seedling 602903 made in 1968 by L. Fredric Hough and Catherine H. Bailey at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (Fig. 1). The seedling first fruited and was selected in 1971. It was first propagated and assigned the introduction number NJF2 in 1977.

Description

Trees of 'Stark Saturn' are large, vigorous, spreading, and very productive. Flower buds have been exceptionally hardy, showing excellent survival during several test winters. Trees have consistently borne heavy crops,

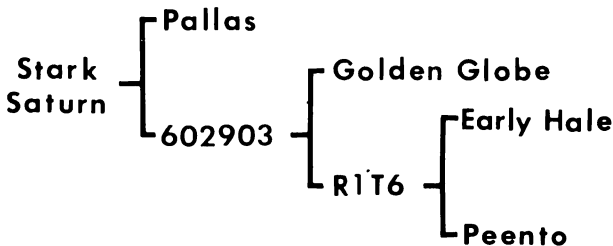
even in years when many commercial cultivars have failed. 'Stark Saturn' has demonstrated a high level of resistance to bacterial spot even under conditions where neighboring trees were severely infected. Leaf glands are reniform and flowers are large and showy.

The fruit of 'Stark Saturn' is highly blushed and approximately 6 cm in diameter. The fruit is vertically compressed and oblate, matching the description of the peento or Pen-Tao group of peaches. The flesh is white, melting, fine, and tender and the flavor is very good, mild, and sweet. Unlike most flat peaches which have holes in the flesh below the pit, 'Stark Saturn' has a small, tight scar and flesh covering the pit. The freestone fruit ripen approximately with 'Redhaven.'

Availability

'Stark Saturn' has been patented (Plant Patent 5123) and the patent has been assigned to Stark Brothers Nurseries and Orchards Co., Louisiana, MO 63353. Trees are available from Stark Brothers.

Figure 1. Pedigree of 'Stark Saturn' peach.



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