

Five New Low-chill Peach Cultivars¹

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'Flordastar,' 'Flordaglo,' 'Flordacrest,' 'TropicBeauty,' and 'TropicSnow' peaches are released by the University of Florida; the last two jointly with Texas A&M University. These cultivars represent new major achievements in developing a continuous ripening sequence in low-chill peaches. 'Flordaglo' and 'TropicSnow' are the first low-chill white flesh cultivars recommended for grower trial. These five cultivars were developed for firm, non-browning flesh and short fuzz for fresh desert quality.

Trees are available from commercial nurseries and limited quantities or budwood are available from the authors at Gainesville and Weslaco.

'Flordastar,' tested as 8-1, originated from a cross of 'Flordagold' and 'Earli-Grande' peaches. Trees require about 225 chill units, ripen with 'Flordaprince,' but with high bacterial spot resistance. Fruit have a moderate red overcolor on melting yellow flesh with a semicling pit. Fruit size is 2 to 2-1/4 inches diameter. Flowers are large and leaf glands are reniform.

'Flordaglo,' tested as 82-9W, originated from a cross of 'Sundowner' nectarine and 'Maravilha' peach. Trees require about 150 chill units, ripen 10 days after 'Flordaprince' and have good bacterial spot resistance. Fruit have a high red overcolor on melting white flesh with a semicling pit. Fruit size is 2-1/4 to 2-1/2 inches diameter. Flowers are large and leaf glands are reniform.

'Flordacrest,' tested as 82-19, originated from a cross of 5-13N and 'Flor-

daking.' 5-13N has complex parentage tracing back 5 generations to 'Okinaawa' and 'Hawaiian' as sources for low-chill genes. Trees require about 400 chill units, ripen one week after 'Flordaking' and have high bacterial spot resistance. Fruit are highly attractive with a moderate red over bright yellow skin. Flesh is melting and yellow with a semicling pit. Fruit size is 2-1/4 to 2-1/2 inches with some split pits when crop is light. Flowers are large and leaf glands are globose.

'TropicBeauty,' tested as 82-10, originated from a cross of 3-2 and 'Flordaprince' peaches. Trees require about 150 chill units, ripen about 10 days after 'Flordaprince' and have moderate bacterial spot resistance. Fruit have a high percentage red overcolor on bright yellow background with very short fuzz, making the fruit highly attractive. The round, firm fruit have melting, deep-yellow flesh that frees from the pit at soft ripe. Fruit size is about 2-1/4 to 2-1/2 inches diameter. Flowers are large with a small calyx cup and leaf glands are reniform.

'TropicSnow,' tested as 82-24W, originated from a cross of 7-11 and 'Maravilha' peaches. Trees require about 200 chill units, ripen about 18 to 20 days after 'Flordaprince,' and have good bacterial spot resistance. Fruit have a moderate red overcolor on melting white flesh. Fruit taste tart, but sweet and are the season's first freestone at firm harvest. Fruit size is 2-1/2 inches diameter. Flowers are large and leaf glands are reniform.

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