

'Forastero' ('Newcomer') Peach for Argentina

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Abstract

'Forastero' peach is being jointly released by USDA and INTA in Argentina for use in that country. It provides a yellow, freestone peach ripening between 'Flavorcrest' and 'Redglobe' which is the lucrative Christmas market season. 'Forastero' has a fruit developmental period of about 112 days and a chilling requirement of 500 hours. Flowers are non-showy, and leaf glands are globose. 'Forastero,' which can be translated 'Newcomer,' is not recommended for use in the United States, nor is it available.

Introduction

'Forastero' peach is released for the fresh market fruit production area of Argentina that includes the northeastern part of Buenos Aires Province and the southern part of Santa Fe Province

(Fig. 1). About 8000 ha. of peaches are planted in this area (near 35° S latitude x 60° W longitude). This production area has adequate annual rainfall for peaches (no irrigation) and a typical winter chilling duration of about 500 hours below 7°C.

'Forastero' ripens earlier than 'Redglobe' and overlaps the end of 'Flavorcrest' harvest. This is an important season for the fruit growers because it precedes Christmas.

Origin

'Forastero' originated from a cross of FV7-873 x 'Junegold' (Fig. 2) made in 1962 by V. E. Prince at the USDA

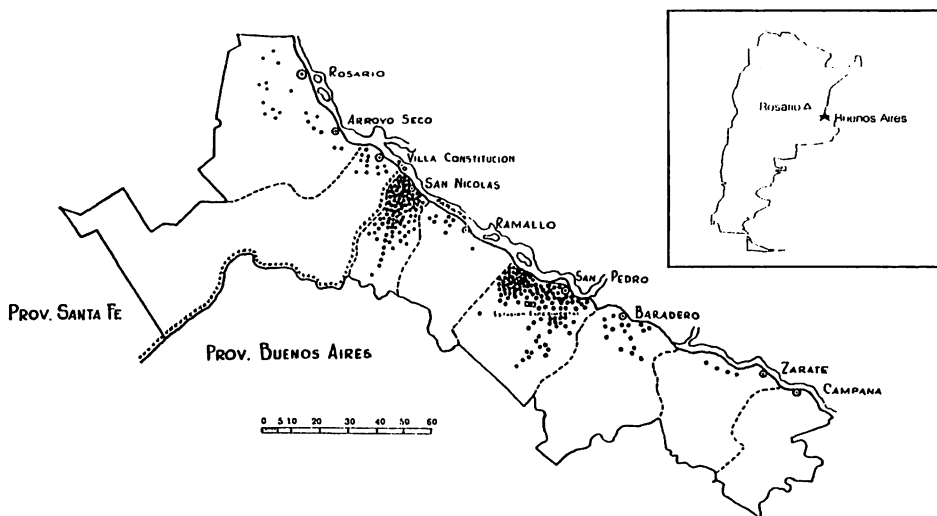


Figure 1. Distribution of peach orchards (dots) in the area around the San Pedro Experiment Station (35°S X 60°W), with inset map of Argentina. Scale shown is km.

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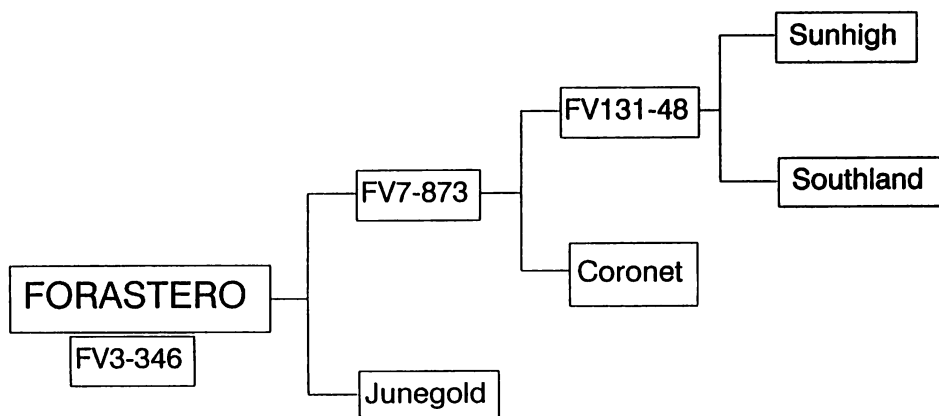


Figure 2. Pedigree of 'Forastero' peach.

Horticultural Field Laboratory in Fort Valley, Georgia. Parent FV7-873 produces attractive peach ripening in 'Coronet' season. Prince selected 'Forastero' as FV3-346 but no records were found of its performance as a seedling at Fort Valley. FV3-346 was sent to

Texas in 1968 for further testing probably because the chilling requirement was determined to be too low for use in central Georgia. Although performance in Texas was apparently not promising either, it was sent to Argentina, where it has performed well for

Table 1. Dates of flower and leaf budbreak, and fruit ripening of 'Forastero' peach in relation to standard peaches in Argentina.

CULTIVAR	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY
	BLOOM	LEAF		RIPE		
JUNEGOLD	8/10-8/20	8/20-9/10		11/10-11/20		
BARCELO	8/20-9/10	9/10-9/20			12/10-12/20	
FLAVORCREST	8/10-8/20	8/20-9/10			12/10-12/20	
FORASTERO	8/10-8/20	8/20-9/10			12/10-12/20	
KEYSTONE	8/20-9/10	9/10-9/20			12/10-12/20	
REDGLOBE		9/10-9/20	9/20-10/10			1/10-1/20

6 years. The name 'Forastero' means 'Newcomer' in Spanish.

Fruit and Tree Characters

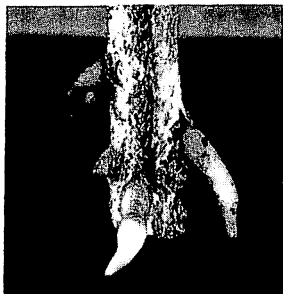
'Forastero' produces large fruit (7.0 cm in height and 7.2 cm in width), averaging about 160 g, generally round, symmetrical or slightly asymmetrical with a round tip and moderately bulging suture. The stem cavity is moderately wide and deep. The skin has light pubescence with a 70-90% bright red blush over a yellow-orange ground color. The flesh is dark yellow to pale orange, firm, freestone, juicy and sweet with excellent flavor (total soluble solids = 12°Brix). Pits are red and small. The fruit development period is about 112 days so the fruit ripens about Dec. 16-25 in Argentina.

Trees are vigorous with well developed branches and good productivity. Leaves are medium to large in size, lanceolate, dark green in color, with a crenate margin and globose leaf glands.

About 500 hours below 7°C are required for proper bud development and bloom. Trees are fully foliated by September 10 and dormant by April 17. Flowers are non-showy and self-fertile. Full Bloom occurs about Aug. 28. Typical budbreak and ripening in Argentina are shown in Table 1 in comparison to standard cultivars.

'Forastero' is recommended for trial plantings in the central peach growing region of Argentina because it provides a superior cultivar ripening between 'Flavorcrest' and 'Redglobe' that is available for the lucrative Christmas market. Because 'Forastero' is no longer available in the United States and would have to go through Plant Quarantine to be readmitted, and because its previous performance here was not noteworthy, it is not recommended for the U.S. Small amounts of budwood for testing are available from Ing. Valentini in Argentina.

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