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'Flordastar' and 'Hermosillo' Peaches and 'Lara' Nectarine: Early Varieties for Argentina

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Abstract

'Flordastar,' 'Hermosillo' and 'Lara' are recommended for trial plantings in the central peach growing region of Argentina. 'Flordastar' is a good alternative for the 'EarliGrande' season because of its superior firmness, flavor and color. 'Hermosillo' is better than 'Barceló' in flavor, and in tree vigour and health. 'Lara' is a good alternative for its season because of its superior fruit size, shape and firmness, and it has good tree health and vigour.

Introduction

'Flordastar' and 'Hermosillo' peaches and 'Lara' nectarine are released and recommended by INTA for the fresh market fruit production area of Argentina that includes the Northeastern part of Buenos Aires Province and southern part of Santa Fe Province. About 10000 ha of stone fruit are grown in this area (near 35° S x 60° W). This production area has adequate annual rainfall for peaches (no irrigation) and the winter chilling averages 500 hours below 7°C.

These varieties also show potential to be grown outside 'non traditional' stone fruit regions such as in northern areas of Argentina, which are specializing in low-chill early varieties for the fresh market.

'Flordastar' ripens with 'EarliGrande' and earlier than 'Flordaking,' while 'Hermosillo' ripens between 'June Gold' and

'Flavorcrest,' in the same harvest period of a local peach variety named 'Barceló.' 'Lara' has a ripening time that overlaps the end of 'Obligado INTA' and covers the harvest period of 'Nectarrojo INTA.' Both 'Obligado INTA' and 'Nectarrojo INTA' are local nectarine varieties.

Origin

'Flordastar' originated in 1976 from a cross of 'EarliGrande' x 'Flordagold,' and was selected in 1978 and tested as Fla 8-1, and named by the University of Florida (1). 'Hermosillo' originated from a cross of Fla 5-5 x Fla 3-4N and was tested as Fla 81-30, and named in Northwestern Mexico (2). 'Lara' originated from a cross of Fla 15-85W x 'Columbina' and was tested as Fla 3-4N, and named in Argentina. Lara was introduced into Argentina in 1978, whereas 'Flordastar' and

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'Hermosillo' were introduced in 1986. The crosses and selections were made by W. B. Sherman at the University of Florida at Gainesville. The pedigree of 'Lara' and 'Hermosillo' are given in Figure 1.

Fruit and Tree Characters

'Flordastar' produces medium size fruit for an early peach (6.0 cm height and 6.0 to 6.5 cm width) averaging 130g,

which is generally round, symmetrical or slightly asymmetrical, with a round to very slight prominent tip, and a smooth suture. The stem cavity is deep and moderately wide. The skin has short pubescence with 70-90% bright red blush over a yellow-orange ground color. The flesh is yellow, firm, semi-cling, juicy and good quality. Pits are small with low tendency to split for such a short fruit devel-

Table 1. Dates of flower and leaf budbreak, and fruit ripening of 'Flordastar,' 'Hermosillo' peaches and 'Lara' nectarine in relation to standard cultivars in the San Pedro area.

CULTIVAR	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
EarliGrande						
Flordastar						
Flordaking						
Obligado INTA*						
Springcrest						
Lara*						
June Gold						
Nectarrojo INTA*						
Barceló						
Hermosillo						
Flavorcrest						

■ Bloom (50%)

□ Ripe

*Nectarine

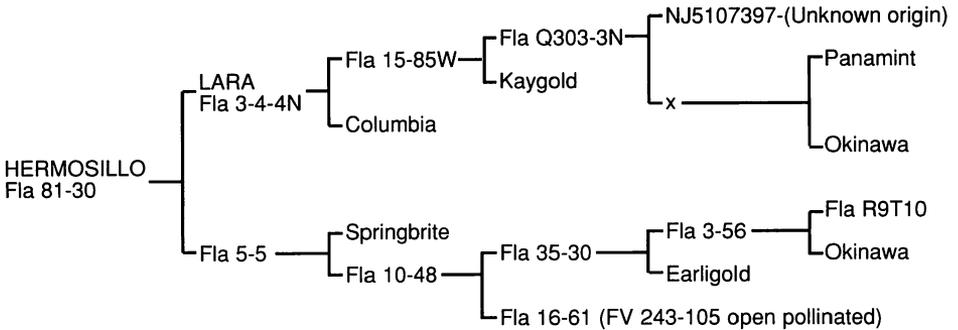


Figure 1. Pedigree of 'Hermosillo' peach and 'Lara' Nectarine.

opment period (fdp). The fdp is about 75, days so the fruit ripens about 28 Oct. to 6 Nov. in the recommended area. Trees are semi-spreading, vigorous with well developed branches and good productivity and less blind nodes than 'EarliGrande.' In the absence of spring frosts trees require early and moderate fruit thinning. Leaves are moderate in size, lanceolate, with globose petiolar glands. About 250 hours below 7°C are required for proper bud development and flowering. Trees are fully foliated by 12 Aug. Flowers are showy and self-fertile. Full bloom occurs about 1 Aug.

'Hermosillo' produces large fruit (7.2 cm height and 6.7 cm width) averaging 175g, generally round, asymmetrical, with a round tip and bulging suture. The stem cavity is deep and moderately wide. The skin has a short pubescence with 60-70% dull red blush over a yellow-orange ground color. The flesh is dark yellow with some of red in it, firm, freestone, juicy and well balanced sweet acid flavor. The fdp is about 110 days so the fruit ripens about 28 Nov. to 10 Dec. in this area. Trees are semi-spreading and vigorous. They set a high number of flower buds and in the absence of spring frosts require moderate fruit thinning to develop commercial fruit size. Leaves are moderate to large in size, lanceolate, with reniform petiolar glands. About 300 to 350 hours below 7°C are required for proper bud development and bloom. Trees are fully foliated by 16 Aug. Flowers are

showy and self-fertile. Full bloom occurs about 8 Aug.

'Lara' produces medium to large fruit for an early nectarine (6.5 cm height and 6.3 cm width) averaging 145 g, with nearly round shape that is slightly asymmetrical, with a round tip and marked suture. The stem cavity is deep and wide. The skin has 90% or more dark dull red blush over a pale yellow ground color. The flesh is yellow with some of red in the flesh close to the tip. Firmness is medium, flesh is freestone, and fruit have a desirable taste. The fdp is about 112 days so the fruit ripens about 2-14 Dec. in the recommended area. Trees are semi-spreading and vigorous and they set a high number of flower buds. In the absence of spring frosts, they require heavy fruit thinning to obtain commercial size. Leaves are moderate in size, lanceolate, with reniform petiolar glands. Chilling requirement is about 400 hours below 7°C. Full foliation occurs by 21 Aug. Flowers are showy and self-fertile. Full bloom occurs about 13 Aug.

Typical budbreak and ripening in the San Pedro area, for the three varieties, are shown in Table 1 in comparison to standard cultivars.

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