

'UF2000' Peach

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'UF2000,' an attractive, high quality peach with yellow non-melting flesh, has been released for grower trial in fresh market production by the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station. It is expected to produce fruit with tree-ripened aroma and sweetness which softens slowly, allowing for longer shelf life than fruit from conventional melting-flesh, fresh market cultivars.

'UF2000' originated from a 1990 cross of 'Aztecgold' x 'Oro A.' It was selected in 1992 and tested as Fla. 92-15c.

Trees of 'UF2000' are estimated to require 300 chill units (cu). This is based on full bloom occurring between the standards 'Sunred' nectarine (250cu) and 'Early Amber' peach (350cu) or about mid-February at Gainesville. 'UF2000' has fruited well where the coldest month averages 14 to 16C and in colder locations in the absence of spring frosts. This corresponds to the area from Leesburg to Lake City in Florida. Fruit ripen in late May in this area, about 95 to 100 days after full bloom, or near that of 'Flordagold' peach. Trees are highly vigorous and semi-upright, but are easily spread to a vase shape with pruning. Due to vigorous summer and autumn growth, summer pruning is necessary to keep the vase open to allow light penetration for formation of strong, lower fruiting wood. Trees set a high number of flower buds, have few blind nodes, and exhibit little bud failure; thus, they require much fruit thinning in the absence of thinning by spring frost.

Fruit are large and attractive. They range from 140 to 160 grams (about 2^{3/4} inch diameter) in size when thinned 6 to 8 inches apart. Commercially ripe fruit have 50 to 70 percent bright red skin with a deep orange ground color and little green at the stem end. Fruit shape is substantially symmetrical, nearly round and the flesh contains little red on non-stressed trees. Flesh is clingy to the pit even when soft ripe. Flesh is firm with good sweetness and does not brown readily on cut surfaces. Pits are medium small and have shown little tendency to split even when crop loads were low.

Leaves have small reniform petiolar glands. Flowers are showy and pink. Anthers are yellow with little anthocyanin, and pollen is bright yellow and abundant. Leaves and fruit are moderately resistant to bacterial spot. Leaves do not drop readily when infected with rust as on most varieties.

The major advantages of 'UF2000' are a low chilling requirement, a medium large fruit with non melting flesh, and an attractive skin blush.

A plant patent has been filed for 'UF2000' and a propagation agreement is available through Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc., P.O. Box 309, Greenwood, FL 32443. Budwood is non-indexed, but peach germplasm originating at the University of Florida breeding program has been found to be mostly virus free in countries that routinely quarantine and index.

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Apple Pollenizer Potency

In two consecutive years fruit set and yield were higher when 'Topred' was adjacent to 'Golden Delicious' compared to 'Jonathan'. 'Jonathan' and 'Topred' share allele S9 and a comparison of seedlings it was found with 'Jonathan' only S7 the unshared allele took part in fertilization. Whereas both alleles of 'Golden Delicious' (S2, S3) participated at equal rates. From Goldway et al. 1999. J. HortSci Biotech 74(3):381-385.