

Dual Purpose Peaches

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Novel varieties of peach are now available at many nurseries which combine the spectacular showiness of early spring flowers characteristic of the popular kinds of Early Double Pink and Red Flowering with the high fruit quality of Redwing and Robin. For the first time we now have a group of dual purpose peaches which are valuable both for their high quality fruit and their attractive bloom.

Because of their low chilling requirement, these varieties are adapted to southern California, Arizona, New Mexico and other southern states. They have also shown promise for northern California, Oregon and Washington, west of the Cascades.

They are very rapid and vigorous growing varieties, probably due to hybrid vigor resulting from combining two distinct lines, the Chinese Dwarf Evergreen or Mandarin peach and our commercial or North China type peach.

These unusual dual-purpose varieties which have been given the collective name of Daily News peaches, may be briefly described as follows:

Daily News 2 Star Peach—Large, almond type deep pink blossoms; fruit, covered with a deep red skin, about 2¼ inches, white-fleshed, semi-freestone, excellent in flavor, ripens from June 1 to June 15.

Daily News 1 Star Peach—Flowers, almond type, large and pink; fruit, highly colored, 2¼ inches, semi-freestone, yellow-fleshed, fine in flavor, ripens from June 15 to July 1.

Daily News 4 Star Peach—Flowers, numerous, 2 inches, double, with 15 to

18 large, light salmon pink petals; fruit, attractive 2¼ to 2½ inches, white-fleshed, freestone, fine flavored, ripens from June 15 to July 1.

Daily News 3 Star Peach—Abundant, large, dark pink double flowers, with 16 to 20 petals; fruit, well colored, 2¼ to 2¾ inches, yellow-fleshed, excellent eating quality, ripens from August 1 to 15.

The story behind the breeding of these peaches is very remarkable in that crossing and testing was all done within the space of ten years. This was made possible by removing and culturing the embryos of the hybrid seed, and using continuous light, high nutrient levels and minimum temperatures of 65 degree F. in growing the seedlings.

Editor's Note:

According to the rules for nomenclature of the American Pomological Society, the names originally given to this group of peaches are unsuitable. It has been suggested to the originators that the names be changed to more suitable ones. He has agreed that they be officially called "One Star," etc., with the notation that they belong to the "Daily News" series.

Although this particular series of varieties has been bred for warm winter climates, there is no reason why double flowering may not be bred into new fruiting varieties for colder climates. In fact, the extra petals can be advantageous in situations with frost about flowering time, in giving extra insulation of the pistils when flower buds are at the pink stage, to promote more reliable fruit setting.