

FRUIT AND ROSE RESEARCH - OVERTON, 1983

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PEACH VARIETY EVALUATIONS AT OVERTON - 1982

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Initial peach variety evaluation work was initiated at Overton in 1973 by Dr. John Lipe with 65 varieties planted in three-tree plots. Since the initial planting, additional varieties and breeding lines have been planted and those showing little promise for the East Texas area have been eliminated.

The trees were spaced 18 feet apart in 20-foot rows and drip irrigated to prevent moisture stress. In 1982, the dates of harvest, yields, and fruit size were recorded and the varieties were evaluated on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = poor, 10=excellent) for surface color, fruit shape, overall attractiveness, fruit firmness and flavor.

All early ripening (May) varieties were low in production (Table 1) and had poor flavor (Table 2) compared to later ripening fruit. Springcrest, Camden and Springold developed relatively good color. Springcrest and Springold were the top two producing varieties during this period. Springcrest, Camden and Bicentennial had a high incidence of non-showing split pit.

Production of all varieties ripening in early June was more than double that of the earlier ripening varieties and fruit size was generally larger and flavor was better. Sentinel and Harbrite had the largest production during this ripening period but both were rated slightly low for color. Harvester was not as productive as Harbrite but received higher quality ratings except for firmness and flavor.

Harbrite had the best flavor of the varieties ripening in early June.

In late June, Loring was the most productive and had the largest fruit size. Flavor of Loring was acceptable but fruit color was poor and over 50% of the fruit exhibited surface cracks. This cracking problem with Loring has not been a common occurrence in East Texas and may be due to frequent rains occurring in June during fruit expansion. Velvet had acceptable quality ratings, but production was very low.

During early July, Summergold and Denman produced the most fruit and these 2 varieties were the most productive in the variety planting. Summergold produced the largest fruit of any of the varieties and developed good color and flavor. Varieties ripening during this period exhibited good production and quality, except Blake, which had extremely low production and poorly colored fruit. Both Blake and Milam produced over 50% surface cracked fruit.

Redskin was the best variety ripening in mid to late July and had the highest production, best color and good flavor. Tyler produced average yields, but was generally lower in quality.

The best varieties in 1982 at Overton were as follows:

May - Springold

Early June - Harbrite, Harvester

Late June - Loring

Early July - Summergold, Denman

Mid to late July - Redskin

Table 1. Peach variety production data, Overton 1982.

Season	Variety	Harvest Duration	Yield (bu-acre)	Fruit Diameter (inches)	Tree Age (years)
May	Springcrest	5/11-5/20	113	2.0-2.4	10
	Camden	5/11-5/20	81	2.0-2.5	9
	Springgold	5/17-5/19	106	1.9-2.4	10
	Bicentennial	5/19-5/20	98	2.3-2.5	7
Early June	Sentinel	6/2-6/15	310	2.1-2.8	10
	Surecrop	6/2-6/14	257	2.3-2.5	9
	Harbrite	6/4-6/22	308	2.5-2.8	10
	Harvester	6/7-6/22	257	2.5-2.9	9
	Norman	6/7-6/22	272	2.1-2.8	9
Late June	Velvet	6/14-6/22	161	2.3-2.8	9
	Troy	6/17-6/29	267	2.5-2.8	9
	Loring	6/25-7/5	305	2.7-3.0	10
Early July	Red Globe	6/29-7/8	267	2.5-3.0	10
	LaPremiere	6/29-7/5	257	2.5-2.8	9
	Milam	6/29-7/5	363	2.5-3.0	10
	Summergold	6/29-7/5	408	2.8-3.0	9
	Denman	7/2-7/8	408	2.3-2.9	10
	Blake	7/5-7/16	71	2.5-2.8	10
	Fayette	7/8-7/18	308	2.5-2.9	10
Mid to late July	Jefferson	7/12-7/22	131	2.5-2.8	10
	Redskin	7/13-7/22	328	2.5-2.8	10
	Tyler	7/19-7/27	282	2.5-3.0	9

Table 2. Peach quality data ^z, Overton, 1982.

<u>Season</u>	<u>Variety</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Shape</u>	<u>Attractiveness</u>	<u>Firmness</u>	<u>Flavor</u>
May	Springcrest	7	4	6	6	5
	Camden	7	4	6	5	5
	Springold	8	5	7	6	5
	Bicentennial	5	6	6	5	5
Early June	Sentinel	5	4	5	4	6
	Surecrop	7	5	6	6	6
	Harbrite	5	7	6	8	8
	Harvester	7	8	8	8	6
	Norman	7	6	6	7	7
Late June	Velvet	7	6	8	5	7
	Troy	4	5	5	4	7
	Loring	4	6	7	6	8
Early July	Red Globe	6	7	7	8	7
	LaPremiere	6	7	8	6	7
	Milam	6	6	7	7	7
	Summergold	7	6	8	6	7
	Denman	6	6	6	8	7
	Blake	4	6	8	7	7
	Fayette	6	8	8	8	7
Mid to Late July	Jefferson	4	6	8	6	7
	Redskin	7	7	8	7	7
	Tyler	5	6	7	7	5

^z Rated 1-10 with 1=poor and 10=excellent.