count for the differences in responses to ethylene between freesia and gladiolus. Van Staden et al. (15) found that breaking seed dormancy of Spergula arvensis with light and ethylene was accompanied by increases in levels of endogenous cytokinin, especially in cytokininribotides, prior to germination. Pretreatment of seed with cytokinins did not, however, substitute for the light or ethylene requirements. Light and ethylene were also reported to elicit changes in levels of gibberellin-like compounds, however; while GA did promote germination of scarified seed in S. arvensis. It is not know whether the ethephon treatment on freesia corms involved an interaction between ethephon and cytokinins and/or GAs.

Future research focusing on endogenous hormonal balance may provide further insights as to the regulation of sprouting in freesia and help reduce the time required for shoot emergence.

Literature Cited


CULTIVAR & GERMPLASM RELEASES


‘Sunland’ Peach1

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Additional index words. Prunus persica, fruit breeding, bacterial spot, Xanthomonas pruni

‘Sunland’ peach [Prunus persica (L.) Batsch] has been released to provide a cultivar well-adapted to the southeastern United States that ripens slightly later than ‘Harvester’. ‘Sunland’ is similar to ‘Harvester’ in color and firmness, but has larger fruit.

Origin

‘Sunland’ resulted from a 1964 cross of FV323-12 (Southland x Sunhigh) OP x FV9-6345 (Dixiland x Keystone). The seedling was selected by V.E. Prince at Byron, Georgia, in 1966. It has since been tested as FV4-7140 at experiment stations in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas, and with grower cooperators in Alabama and Georgia.

Description

‘Sunland’ trees are vigorous and productive. The foliage and fruit are moderately susceptible to bacterial spot incited by Xanthomonas pruni (E.F. Sm.) Dows., similar to ‘Redglobe’. Trees at Byron have been indexed and found to be free of Prunus ringspot virus. Leaf gland type is globose. The chilling requirement to break the leaf bud rest period is about 750 hours below 7.2°C.

The self-fertile blossoms have small (non-showy) petals. Fruits (Fig. 1) are large, 5-6.5 cm diameter, and round with a slight tip. The slightly pubescent surface is 75% bright red at maturity, with an attractive yellow undercolor. The yellow flesh is firm but melting, with some red in the freestone pit cavity. Flesh texture is medium and flavor is good. ‘Sunland’ fruit mature with ‘Keystone’ in late June at Byron, 3-5 days after ‘Harvester’ and 20 days before ‘Elberta’.

Availability

‘Sunland’ is recommended for trial wherever ‘Harvester’ is grown. Limited amounts of budwood are available from W.R. Okie.

1Received for publication March 23, 1981.

The cost of publishing this paper was defrayed in part by the payment of page charges. Under postal regulations, this paper therefore must be hereby marked advertisement solely to indicate this fact.

2Horticulturalists.

Fig. 1. Mature fruit of ‘Sunland’ peach.