'Santee Early Pinkeye' Southernpea

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'Santee Early Pinkeye' southernpea [*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp.] has been released by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture as a replacement for 'Early Pinkeye' (Brantley, 1978). 'Early Pinkeye' is an early maturing processing cultivar used by commercial growers in conjunction with 'Pinkeye Purple Hull' or 'Coronet' to extend the harvest season or as a "catch-up" cultivar for delayed or reseeded plantings. 'Santee Early Pinkeye' does not exhibit the serious seed abortion (poor pod fill) problem often exhibited by 'Early Pinkeye', and its pods are much less prone to coming into contact with the soil. The new cultivar is named in honor of the Santee Indian tribe, a small group of Siouan Indians that originally inhabited an area north of the Santee River in South Carolina.

Origin

'Santee Early Pinkeye' was developed at the U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, Charleston, S.C. It originated from a bulk seed increase made in 1979 of an F_6 progeny population of the cross CR 138 $\times$ 'Coronet' (Fig. 1). 'Santee Early Pinkeye' was tested as US-311 throughout the southern United States as an observational entry in the 1984 and 1985 Regional Southernpea Cooperative Trials and as a replicated entry in the 1986 trials. US-311 was released as a breeding line in 1987 (Fery and Dukes, 1988). Processor-conducted trials in Georgia indicated that US-

311 is superior to 'Early Pinkeye'; therefore, US-311 was released as a named cultivar in response to industry request.

Description

'Santee Early Pinkeye' is similar in appearance to 'Coronet' (Brantley, 1976), but usually matures 5 to 10 days earlier. The plant habit is low bushy and somewhat more compact than 'Coronet'. It has slightly curved pods (Fig. 2) that are borne above the foliage in a scattered fashion. Pod set is more concentrated than in 'Coronet'. Pod color is green when the pods are immature, dark purple at green-shell maturity, and purple at dry maturity. The fresh peas have a kidney shape and a pink "eye". The dry peas have a smooth seed coat and are slightly smaller than those of 'Coronet' (14.4 and 14.9 g/100 peas, respectively).

Processed samples of fresh 'Santee Early Pinkeye' peas scored well in quality evaluation tests conducted in 1984 at the Univ. of Arkansas (T.E. Morelock, J.L. Bowers, and

W.A. Sistrunk, unpublished data). The processed grades for frozen -samples (average of scores for color of peas, wholeness, and general appearance; 1 = poorest, 10 = best) were 8.4 for 'Santee Early Pinkeye' and 8.1 for 'Coronet'. The processed grades for canned Samples (average of scores for color of peas, color of liquor, wholeness, texture, flavor, and general appearance) were 8.2 for 'Santee Early Pinkeye' and 8.3 for 'Coronet'.

Yields of 'Santee Early Pinkeye' are similar to those of 'Coronet' and 'Pinkeye Purple Hull' [no significant differences ($P = 0.05$) were identified in 3 years of replicated tests at Charleston]. The cultivar will probably benefit more from closer row spacing than would cultivars with a more vining plant habit. Numerous tests in South Carolina and throughout the southern United States have not shown 'Santee Early Pinkeye' to have unusual susceptibility to any major southernpea disease. The new cultivar exhibits the same intermediate-susceptible reaction to root-knot nematodes (*Meloidogyne* spp.) as 'Coronet', but is less susceptible to Fusarium wilt [*Fusarium oxysporum* Schlecht, f. sp. *tracheiphilum* (E.F. Sm.) Snyder & Hans.].

'Santee Early Pinkeye' is recommended for commercial use as a processing cultivar for spring, midseason, and fall plantings throughout the southeastern United States. It should perform well in all areas where 'Coronet' or 'Pinkeye Purple Hull' has been grown successfully.

Fig. 1. Pedigree of 'Santee Early Pinkeye' southernpea.

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Fig.2. Pods and peas of 'Santee Early Pinkeye' southernpea.

Availability

Breeder's seed of 'Santee Early Pinkeye' has been released to seed producers. Small, trial samples of breeder's seed are available for distribution to all interested research personnel. Address all requests for seed to R.L.F.

Literature Cited

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