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'Jerseypink' Ornamental Peach

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'Jerseypink' ornamental peach is being released by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station for the northeastern United States. Trees of 'Jerseypink' annually produce numerous large, rich pink, showy double flowers (late blooming). Tree of 'Jerseypink' are moderately large with a spreading growth habit. 'Jerseypink' provides the ornamental industry with a pink flowering ornamental cultivar of *Prunus persica* (L.) Batsch.

Origin

'Jerseypink' was selected by Anna Voordeckers from an open-pollinated progeny of an unnamed New Jersey selection (Fig. 1). The tree was assigned test number NJ308 in 1985 because of its ornamental qualities. Its parentage includes the weeping ornamental, PI 91459, and PI 101681, both of which are very late flowering.

Description and performance

Performance data comparing 'Jerseypink' with 'Redhaven' and 'Loring' were obtained from trial plantings at Cream Ridge, N.J. (Table 1).

Trees of 'Jerseypink' are vigorous, moderately spreading, and only slightly productive. Trees appear tolerant to bacterial spot [*Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *pruni* (Smith) Dye] and cytospora canker [*Leucostoma per-soonii* (Nits) Hohn. and other *Leucostoma* spp.] under field conditions. Flowers are double, very large, and bright 'pink' ($L = 75.5$, $a = 25.5$, $b = -1.5$) as measured by a Minolta CR-300 Colorimeter (Minolta, Ramsey, N.J.) (Fig. 2). The pollen is viable

and deep yellow. Average bloom date at Cream Ridge, N.J., is 26 Apr. This late-blooming habit allows the flowers to escape spring frost injury. Leaves are reddish green in the spring, turning dark green in late summer. Actively growing shoots maintain a reddish green color at the tips throughout the summer. Leaf glands are reniform.

'Jerseypink' fruit measures ≈ 5.5 to 6.0 cm in diameter. The fruit are oblong-round, with 40% to 50% scarlet red blush and a greenish-yellow undercolor. Occasionally the fruit have a tip. The flesh is yellow and non-melting, and has a spicy flavor as judged by us. The flesh clings to the pit. Fruit of 'Jerseypink' are firm ripe on 20 Aug. at Cream Ridge. Trees of 'Jerseypink' usually only set

Fig. 2. Very large, showy double pink, flowers of 'Jerseypink' ornamental peach.

a light crop. Neither the fruit quality nor the productivity is sufficient to warrant planting 'Jerseypink' for commercial fruit production.

Availability

Trees of 'Jerseypink' are available from the New Jersey Peach Council through Adams County Nursery, Aspers, PA 17304. Limited supplies of nonindexed budwood are available from the Rutgers Fruit Research Center, RD #2, Box 38, Cream Ridge, NJ 08514.

Fig. 1. Pedigree of 'Jerseypink' ornamental peach.

Table 1. Performance of 'Jerseypink' ornamental peach in comparison with 'Redhaven' and 'Loring' at Cream Ridge, N.J. (1986-89).²

Character	Cultivar rating		
	Jerseypink	Redhaven	Loring
Fruit load	Very light	Medium-heavy	Light-medium
Bacterial leaf spot	Light	Light-none	Light
Flesh adherence to pit	Cling	Semi-cling	Free
Flavor	Spicy	Good	Good
Fruit diam. (cm)	5.5-6.0	6.0-6.5	6.5-7.0
Red overcolor (%)	40	80	80
Avg bloom date	26 Apr.	12 Apr.	9 Apr.
Flower type	Showy double	Nonshowy	Showy single
Avg ripening date	20 Aug.	28 July	14 Aug.

²Trees were propagated on Lovell seedling rootstock.

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