

## 'Golden Charm' Peach

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'Golden Charm' peach [*Prunus persica* (L.) Batsch] was released for commercial trials by the Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (ISA) in 1985 (Fig. 1). It produces medium to large nonmelting clingstone fruit with an attractive blush over a rich golden ground color and ripens 1 month after 'Redhaven'. It is being introduced for fresh market use because of its reliable fruit size, appearance, firm flesh, and maturity time.

### Origin

'Golden Charm' originated from a cross of 'Golden Queen' x 'Babygold No. 5' made in 1973 by A. Czerkaskyj. Selected as 3-3-18, it was propagated in 1985 and tested as T244. Fruit were assessed at ISA from 1983 to 1988 on the Cantilever Trellis (Jones and Mitchell, 1978) and at several district sites in the Goulburn Valley (northeastern Victoria) from 1986 to 1990.

### Description

'Golden Charm' matures in the first week of February (August in the northern hemisphere), 30 days after 'Redhaven' and 30 days before 'Golden Queen'. Seasonal variation of first pick date varies from 3 to 9 Feb. Average harvest duration is 9 days. Based on winter chill requirement taken in 1991, 'Golden Charm' needs similar chill hours (800 h under 7C) as does 'Golden Queen'.

Fruit size is medium to large (65 to 75 mm diameter), as are those of both parents. The fruit is moderately oblique (Sefick and Blake 1936) with an uneven suture and a moderate point at the calyx. Fruit halves are almost equal with a deep cavity at the stem end. The skin has an attractive 10% to 40% light maroon blush arranged as speckle over

a rich golden ground color. Blush is usually on the exposed side of the fruit. The fruit has medium pubescence with yellow to orange (9L7) (Maerz and Paul, 1950) flesh at picking and coloring evenly from the pit outward. Some fruit have a slight red pigmentation in the pit cavity, with little extension into the flesh. Flesh is of medium fine texture, firm, nonmelting, but juicy. In our judgment, eating quality is full flavored with a strong peach aroma, sweet with a typical °Brix of 16.0. 'Golden Charm' is a clingstone peach but has good separation of flesh from the pit when twisted. Pits are medium sized and have little tendency to split. The pits are red with medium coarse fissures, leaving a moderately coarse pattern in the pit cavity when fruit is twist pitted.

Trees are of medium vigor growing on their own roots (Issell and Chalmers, 1979) and are moderately upright with an average sized trunk. Laterals are medium length, similar to 'Golden Queen', with some red

coloration on exposed sides. Flower buds are evenly distributed along laterals. Flowers are nonshowy, and full bloom is 1 day before 'Golden Queen' and at the same time as 'Redhaven' (1983 to 1990). Renewal pruning is recommended to maintain good fruit size and quality.

Leaves are medium sized and average 148-mm long and 40-mm broad at the midshoot when measured at midseason. They are fairly flat with small serrations along the leaf edge that point toward the tip, an average of five serrations per 10 mm measured midleaf. Glands are typically small reniform, one on each side of the leaf petiole at the base of the lamina (Gregory, 1915).

Trees set many flower buds and require moderately heavy thinning, with >50% fruitlet removal at the start of stone hardening. This cultivar is a regular cropper of large sized fruit and has < 10% fruit drop at harvest.

'Golden Charm' is a firm-fleshed, aromatic peach that has shown itself to be acceptable for the fresh fruit market along the Asian seaboard.

### Availability

The Dept. of Agriculture's commercial arm, Daratech, has licensed the international rights of 'Golden Charm' to the Australian Nurserymen's fruit Improvement Co. Requests for this cultivar may be directed to B.

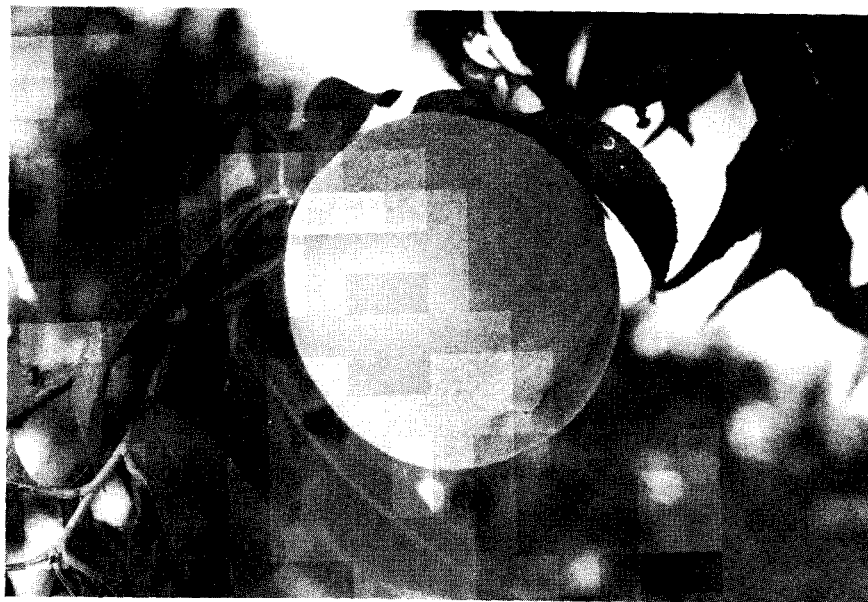


Fig. 1. 'Golden Charm', a midseason firm-fleshed peach.

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Gwen French, Secretary, Australian Nurserymen's Fruit Improvement Co., 21 Toolang Road, St. Ives, NSW 2075, Australia.

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