“Peach and Nectarine Varieties”-A Hypertext Index

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Additional index words. Prunus persica, cultivar

Abstract. “Peach and Nectarine Varieties” is a self-contained computer program describing more than 600 varieties and their performance in the southeastern United States. The information can be accessed in various ways, including searching for any word or name. A Master Index of names and synonyms lists more than 6000 names used in the United States, plus many foreign names. This index includes pedigree, origin, and a coded description. General information is included regarding peaches and nectarines. All North American breeding programs are chronicled. The program is available for MS-DOS computers with an EGA or VGA monitor, and may be freely distributed.

Hypertext is a concept that implies non-linear reading of a document. Personal computers and hypertext-authoring programs allow this concept to be put into practice. This paper describes a hypertext version of a bulletin covering peach and nectarine [Prunus persica (L.) Batsch] varieties.

The most comprehensive bulletin on peach varieties was produced by U.P. Hedrick ≈75 years ago (Hedrick, 1917). He described 2181 peach varieties known in the United States at that time. In 1920, the American Pomological Society began publishing short variety descriptions of peaches and other fruits in the proceedings of their annual meetings. Similar lists were published by R.M. Brooks and H.P. Olmo, beginning with the Proceedings of the American Society for Horticultural Science in 1944, and continuing through the present in HortScience. A summary book was published in 1972 (Brooks and Olmo, 1972). None of these lists, however, are complete, up-to-date, or easily accessible now because most are out of print. More-modest publications solely about peaches, such as that of Savage and Prince (1972), and European bulletins (Bellini and Scaramuzzi, 1976; Della Strada et al., 1984; Hugard and Saunier, 1965), also have been produced.

The bulletin of Savage and Prince (1972) has been updated recently and expanded to cover important modern peach and nectarine varieties, including all varieties released by public breeders in North America. A hypertext version (Peach and Nectarine Varieties), described here, is being made available, in addition to a more-conventional format as a U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) agricultural handbook (Okie, 1994).

Description

“Peach and Nectarine Varieties” contains general information about peaches and their characteristics. Fruit, flower, and tree characteristics are described. The discussion of chilling requirement includes an equation for estimating chilling based on monthly temperatures and a map showing average annual chilling accumulations in the United States. Leaf gland and flower types, and fruit shapes are shown in graphic images. A complete listing of North American peach breeding programs includes names and tenures of the breeders and the varieties released. These listings also can be accessed via a color-coded U.S. map. Major private breeders are listed as well. Acreages of major varieties are given for 13 states and provinces.

More than 600 varieties are described in some detail (Fig. 1) in Part I. Complete pedigrees are shown where they are known, as are...
references to where the variety is described. Variety performance in the southeastern United States is discussed for those tested there. Several indices are provided to facilitate access to the descriptions in Part 1 (for those varieties listed in Part 1). The user can easily backtrack his/her steps at any time, or view a list of the topics that have been visited. A Boolean search capability allows the user to find all occurrences of any term or terms and view them sequentially. For example, any use of ‘Elberta’ can be viewed, allowing the user to see all varieties with ‘Elberta’ anywhere in the pedigree or in comments.

The variety document was composed using HyperWriter (Ntergaid, Fairfield, Corrn.). A royalty-free reader program (HyperReader) is distributed with the document. The program runs on a DOS computer with a hard drive. The current version requires a VGA (preferably) or EGA graphics adapter for the graphics. The program may be usable, but less readable, on other video types. Copies of this program are available on diskette at a modest cost from the American Pomological Society, 102 Tyson Bldg., Dept. of Horticulture, The Pennsylvania State Univ., University Park, PA 16802.

Program navigation is enhanced by the use of a mouse. When the files are expanded for use, they occupy about 2.5 MB of disk space. The document and reader may be freely copied. Although efforts have been made to verify the information in this index, neither the USDA nor I guarantee its accuracy.

Literature Cited