'Rizzi': A Processing Clingstone Peach with Extended Postharvest Storage Potential

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'Rizzi' clingstone peach [*Prunus persica* (L.) Batsch] is a "Late" season processing peach with extended postharvest storage potential. The tree is vigorous, productive, and hardy under central California conditions. 'Rizzi' fruit are of high quality and ripen with 'Ross' and 'Dr. Davis'. 'Rizzi' fruit have been stored at 0C for up to 8 weeks. This prolonged storage stabilizes raw product supply to the processing industry.

Origin

'Rizzi' originated at the Univ. of California, Davis, from a 1973 open-pollination of 'Everts' (Fig. 1). The seedling was selected by Robert Fenton in 1978 and tested as 19,2-72. Due to its good performance in field and processing evaluations, 'Rizzi' was propagated and placed in trials at Davis and Winters, Calif., beginning in 1979. The name 'Rizzi' is given in honor of Aldo D. Rizzi, who served for 22 years as extension pomologist at the Univ. of California, Davis.

Description and performance

Trees are vigorous and upright to upright-spreading. 'Rizzi' is productive even on upright shoot growth; this characteristic results in improved cropping potential under high-density systems.

'Rizzi' fruit flesh is clingstone and nonmelting. Fruit shape is uniform and globose to slightly oblate (Fig. 2). Average suture diameter is 64 mm, which is in the preferred range for canning. The primary ground color is a yellow-orange, with 20% to 60% red blush. The skin is of average thickness with moderate pubescence and is readily lye-peeled. Flesh is a uniform yellow (color chip 10-K-5) (Maerz and Paul, 1930) from skin to stone cavity. The stone is light brown and is medium to smaller-than-average in size (28.3 mm long × 22.0 mm wide × 17.0 mm tall).

Fruit ripen with 'Ross' and 'Dr. Davis', which are classified in the "Late" California clingstone peach maturity group.

Leaves are moderately large and dark green with moderately undulate, crenate margins. The petiole glands are medium and reniform.

One to three glands are present on the petiole and are located just below the basal leaf margin. Additional glands are present on the basal leaf margins and progressively decrease in size as shape becomes more globose and distance from the leaf base increases.

'Rizzi' flowers are small and nonshowy. Bloom is abundant, usually with two flowers per node. Nectaries are a moderately bright orange. Pollen is abundant and viable. Full bloom occurs during early March in Sacramento Valley, Calif., a time that is normal compared to full bloom of standard cultivars.

'Rizzi' performance compares favorably with that of 'Ross' and 'Dr. Davis', which are the recognized standards for processing peaches (Table 1). A major advantage of 'Rizzi' is its potential for extended storage. Fresh fruit held in air storage for 8 weeks at 0C and 90% to 95% relative humidity have a high-quality processed product (Kader, 1985; Kader et al., 1987). This postharvest storage potential provides the processor with a stable raw product supply at a time when field production may be irregular.

Availability

A limited amount of budwood indexed for *Prunus* necrotic ringspot virus and prune dwarf virus is available under license agreement with the Univ. of California. 'Rizzi' peach license information for propagation may be obtained by writing the Office of Technology Transfer, 1320 Harbor Bay Parkway, Suite 150, Alameda, CA 94501.

Literature Cited

- Kader, A.A. 1985. Cold storage potential of cling peach varieties. *Cling Peach Quarterly* 21: 18-19.
Kader, A.A., S. Briggs, and A. Chordas. 1987.

Fig. 2. 'Rizzi' peach leaf, fruit, and stone morphology (vertical bar = 5 cm).

Table 1. 'Rizzi' clingstone peach performance compared to that of 'Dr. Davis' and 'Ross' (1980-91).^a

Criterion	Cultivar		
	Ross	Dr. Davis	Rizzi
<i>Rating</i>			
Canned			
Appearance	4.0	4.4	4.2
Flavor	3.2	3.6	3.6
Texture	3.8	3.5	3.1
Bruising	4.3	3.1	3.1
Brown rot	3.8	4.1	3.3
Crop load	4.0	3.6	4.0
Split pits	3.9	3.6	4.1
<i>Measurement</i>			
Harvest			
firmness (N)	31.1	27.0	36.0
Diameter (mm)	67	68	64
Case yield			
per ton ^b	59.4	60.0	60.2
Storage potential			
(weeks)	5-6	5-6	7-8
Harvest date	7 Aug.	10 Aug.	14 Aug.
Days anthesis			
to harvest	150	153	157

^aRatings were subjective on a scale of 1 (least desirable) to 5 (most desirable).

^bOne case contains 24 no. 2 1/2 cans.

Fig. 1. 'Rizzi' peach pedigree.

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