'Goldprince' and 'Scarletpearl' Peaches

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'Goldprince' is an early season shipping peach [*Prunus persica* (L.) Batsch] released to replace 'Junegold'. 'Scarletpearl' is an early ripening, firm, white-fleshed peach for local sale and medium-distance shipping.

Origin

'Goldprince' originated from a cross made at Byron, Ga., in 1966 by V.E. Prince (Fig. 1). He selected it when it first fruited in 1970, and subsequently tested it as BY7P1240 or FV7-1240. I released 'Goldprince' to the public in 1989.

'Scarletpearl' originated from bulked open-pollinated seed collected in 1980 from F₂ seedlings of 'Biscoe' × 'Redgold' nectarine. The original cross was made in 1977 by Prince. I selected 'Scarletpearl' in 1983 and tested it as BY51P1411 before releasing it in 1989. The source of the white-flesh gene is unknown. 'Biscoe' has a white-fleshed parent 'Raritan Rose'—but is homozygous for yellow flesh. In adjacent blocks were 'Georgia Belle', 'Wild Rose', and 'Nectar' trees, plus a few white-fleshed nectarine seedlings, any of which could have been the source of the white-flesh gene.

Description

'Goldprince' blooms and ripens with 'Junegold' (Table 1), which, until recently, has been the most widely planted peach in Georgia and South Carolina, primarily because of its large size for the early season. However, some years, large size results in many split and shattered pits. 'Junegold' often has poor color and shape; thus, the cultivar has been difficult to market recently and has lost favor with growers.

'Goldprince' consistently has a more regular shape, more attractive red color, and fewer split and shattered pits than 'Junegold'. 'Goldprince' fruit are smaller than those of 'Junegold', but are adequate for commercial use (6 cm in diameter) when properly thinned. In some years, 'Goldprince' has a more oval than round cross section, but shape is rounder than that of 'Junegold' at Byron. 'Goldprince' has 70% red blush at maturity, with an attractive bright-yellow ground color. The melting,

yellow flesh, in my opinion, is firm with good flavor and texture, for the season.

'Goldprince' is eglandular—it has no glands on the leaf petioles, a trait shared only by 'Juneprince' among peaches grown commercially in the eastern United States (Okie and Reilly, 1987). No unusual disease susceptibility has been observed related to the lack of glands or the associated coarsely serrate leaf margin. 'Goldprince' seems moderately resistant to bacterial spot caused by *Xanthomonas campestris* pv *pruni* (Smith) Dye, based on observations from Alabama. 'Goldprince' is recommended for trial wherever 'Junegold' is grown. Its chilling requirement limits its use to areas similar to the middle chilling zone of the southeastern United States.

'Scarletpearl' produces attractive, round fruit with 60% to 90% red blush over a cream-colored ground color. On the tree, the bright color of the fruit resembles that of a yellow-fleshed cultivar. The white, melting flesh has streaks of red at maturity, but they are not unattractive. 'Scarletpearl' is much firmer than older, white-fleshed peach cultivars, but its ability to withstand long-distance shipping has not been evaluated. Flavor is typical of

early season peaches—pleasant, but not as rich as that of later-ripening peaches. 'Scarletpearl' is similar to early season, yellow-fleshed peaches in soluble solids concentration, pH, sugars, firmness, and shelf life (Robertson et al., 1990). Similar to the flavor of other white-fleshed peaches grown at Byron, 'Scarletpearl' flavor seems to vary year to year more than the flavor of comparable yellow-fleshed peaches, apparently due to differential effects of crop load, rainfall before harvest, and other factors. 'Scarletpearl' shape and cropping have been consistent from year to year. No other suitable white-fleshed peaches are available in this season; 'Scarletpearl' could continue the market begun by 'Starlite', which ripens with 'Springcrest' 7 to 10 days earlier than 'Scarletpearl' (Table 1).

'Scarletpearl' seems moderately resistant to bacterial spot, based on observations from Alabama. It is recommended for trial in the middle to upper chilling zones of the southeastern United States.

Availability

June-budded 'Goldprince' and 'Scarletpearl' trees are available from commercial nurseries in Tennessee. Limited budwood, indexed free of *Prunus* necrotic ringspot virus, is available from W.R. Okie.

Literature Cited

- Okie, W.R. and C.C. Reilly. 1987. 'Juneprince' and 'Fireprince' peaches. HortScience 11:325-326.
Robertson, J.A., R.J. Horvat, B.G. Lyon, F.I. Meredith, S.D. Senter, and W.R. Okie. 1990. A comparison of the quality characteristics of yellow- and white-fleshed peach cultivars. J. Food Sci. 55:1308-1311.

Fig. 1. 'Goldprince' peach pedigree.

Table 1. Characteristics of 'Goldprince' and 'Scarletpearl' peaches compared with standard cultivars.

Cultivar	Full bloom date ² (March)	Chilling hours ²	Flower type	Flower size	Leaf glands	Fruit maturity ²	Bacterial spot reaction ³	Flesh adherence to pit
Springcrest	15	650	Showy	Large	Globose	23 May	S	Cling
Goldprince	13	650	Showy	Large	Absent	31 May	MR	Cling
Scarletpearl	17	750	Showy	Large	Globose	2 June	MR	Cling
Junegold	14	650	Showy	Large	Globose	2 June	S	Cling
Redhaven	24	950	Nonshowy	Medium	Reniform	20 June	MR	Free

²Estimate based on previous 5 years at Byron, Ga. Chilling hours are those below 7°C.

³Disease ratings: S = susceptible, R = resistant, M = moderate.

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