'Regal' Peach

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'Regal' peach [*Prunus persica* (L.) Batsch] is released by the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station. This cultivar ripens with an attractive yellow-flesh fruit, ahead of 'Bicentennial' in northern Louisiana.

Origin

'Regal' originated from a cross of 'Harvester' and 'Surecrop' made in 1977. It first fruited in 1980 and was evaluated as L77-2-79. 'Regal' trees have been evaluated at the Calhoun Research Station, several test orchards in northern Louisiana, and experiment stations and grower sites in Georgia, Alabama, and Texas.

Description

'Regal' ripens $\approx$ 28 days before 'Redhaven'. 'Regal' fruit are 55 to 63 mm in diameter, oval, and slightly pointed (Fig. 1). Yellow undercolor is covered with $\approx$ 65% smooth red blush. The flesh is firm, and the pit is semifree when soft-ripe. 'Regal' is self-fertile and has nonshowy blossoms with rose-colored petals. Leaves are medium large with small serrations and large reniform-shaped petiolar glands. Trees are vigorous and have shown no tendency toward heat injury or cold damage. Leaf buds require

$\approx$ 700 chilling hours (hours $<7^{\circ}\text{C}$) to break dormancy. *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *pruni* (Smith) Dye resistance is high when compared with that of bacterial leaf-spot-susceptible 'Elberta' growing in adjacent rows.

Fruiting characteristics (Table 1) were

evaluated for 11 seasons using a uniform scorecard system to rate each peach cultivar and selection independently.

'Regal' is best adapted to areas where 'Bicentennial' performs successfully. Experimental and grower plantings have shown 'Regal' to produce large (63 mm) early season fruit that ripen 3 days before 'Bicentennial'. 'Regal' is recommended for trial in areas of Louisiana that receive 700 h chilling annually and in other locations with similar growing conditions.

Availability

Inquiries regarding budwood and trees may be directed to commercial peach nurseries. Limited quantities of budwood may be obtained from the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, P.O. Box 539, Calhoun, LA 71225.

Fig. 1. Fruit of 'Regal' peach.

Table 1. Fruiting characteristics² of 'Regal' and 'Bicentennial' peach at the Calhoun Research Station, Calhoun, La. (1986-93).

Cultivar	Fruit			% Red			Pit			
	Set	Diam (mm)	Shape	Pubescence	over-color	Flesh	Attractiveness	Firmness	freeness	Texture
Regal	9.5	63	8.0	9.0	65.0	8.0	9.0	9.0	2.0	8.0
Bicentennial	7.3	52	6.3	7.9	71.3	7.6	7.5	7.6	2.8	6.7
	**	**	*	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	*

²Rating on a scale of 1-10; 1 = completely unsatisfactory, 10 = a perfect score; a rating of ≥ 7 is commercially acceptable. This rating system does not apply to pit freeness, where 1 = clingstone, 10 = freestone.

NS, *, **Nonsignificant or significant at $P \leq 0.05$ or 0.01, respectively.

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