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'GaLa' Peach

C.E. Johnson and J.T. Payne

*Calhoun Research Station, Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station,
Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Calhoun, LA 71225*

W.A. Young and D.H. Picha

*Horticulture Department, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center,
Baton Rouge, LA 70896*

W.R. Okie

*U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Southeastern
Fruit and Tree Nut Laboratory, P.O. Box 87, Byron, GA 31008*

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'GaLa' peach [*Prunus persica* (L.) Batsch] is a joint release by the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station and Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) to provide an early midseason cultivar for commercial market (Fig. 1). The name is formed by the abbreviations of Georgia and Louisiana.

Origin

'GaLa' originated from a lot of 1972 open-pollinated seed of 'Harvester' ('Redskin' x 'Southern Glow'). It was selected in 1977 at Calhoun and tested as L72-3-8. 'GaLa' has been extensively evaluated at the Calhoun and Idlewild research stations at Calhoun and Clinton, La., and at the USDA station at Byron, Ga. It has also been evaluated in test orchards in Alabama and Texas.

Description

'GaLa' matures ≈7 days before 'Harvester', which it resembles. When properly thinned, fruit are ≈55 to 62 mm in diameter with a red blush covering 60% to 70% of the surface, and an attractive yellow ground color. Fruit are semi-freestone and have firm yellow flesh (Table 1). Fruit are slightly, but not significantly, smaller than those of 'Harvester'. The fruit of 'GaLa' are almost round with a 1 length : 1.03 width ratio in locations where

chilling has been adequate. When grown at Byron, there is less tip than that shown in Fig. 1. 'GaLa' has been one of the best peaches in its season at Byron since it first fruited there in 1982.

'GaLa' trees are vigorous and have shown no tendency toward heat injury to trunks or branches. 'GaLa' produces ≈25 fruit buds per 30 cm of fruiting wood, which is similar to 'Harvester'. The leaves have slight serrations with reniform petiolar glands. The flower and leaf buds require ≈750 chilling hours below 7.2C to break dormancy. Flowers are small-petaled, nonshowy, and self-fertile. Bacterial spot [*Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *pruni* (Smith) Dye.] resistance is moderate and similar to 'Harvester' when compared to susceptible 'O'Henry'. 'GaLa' ripens with 'June-prince' and 'Coronet', but yields better than either in the medium-chilling zones. The best adaptation likely is in areas where 'Harvester' performs successfully.

Availability

Inquiries about trees of 'GaLa' should be directed to commercial peach nurseries. Limited amounts of budwood may be obtained from C.E.J. or W.R.O.



Fig. 1. Fruit of 'GaLa' peach.

Table 1. Fruiting characteristics^a of 'GaLa' (harvested 10 June) and 'Harvester' (harvested 15 June) peach at the Calhoun Research Station, Calhoun, La. (1983-93).

| Cultivar | Fruit | | | % Red | | | Pit | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|------------|------------|-------|----------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| | Set | Diam (mm) | Shape | Pubescence | over-color | Flesh | Attractiveness | Firmness | freeness | Texture | Quality |
| GaLa | 9.0 | 62 | 8.7 | 8.5 | 76 | 8.0 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 5.0 | 8.6 | 8.5 |
| Harvester | 8.7 | 69 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 79 | 6.7 | 8.8 | 8.7 | 7.8 | 8.4 | 8.5 |
| | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | ** | NS | NS |

^aRating 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 $P \leq 0.01$, respectively.

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