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'Gulfsnow' peach is jointly released for grower trials by the U.S. Department of Agriculture—Agricultural Research Service (Byron, GA), Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station, and Florida Agricultural Experiment Station. The 'Gulf' prefix indicates this variety was developed for the lower coastal plain, which is largely the Gulf of Mexico region but also includes a small portion of the Atlantic Coast from North Carolina to Florida.

Origin

Description

(January) averages 11.4 °C. The Florida model (Sharpe et al., 1990) suggests that a 400 chill unit variety like ‘GulfSnow’ would fruit well at a location where the coldest month averaged 12 to 14 °C (Sharpe et al., 1990), i.e., in a band starting a little south of Attapulgis to around the latitude of Gainesville, FL, and in colder locations, such as Attapulgis, in the absence of spring frosts. Thus, we expect this new peach to be adapted in areas where ‘Flordaking’ and ‘Sunlite’ have been grown successfully. Fruit ripen in

Table 1. Tree performance and fruit characteristics^z of ‘Gulfsnow’ (Attapulgus, GA, 2006–12).

Yr	Tree		Fruit								
	Bloom (Julian)	Crop ^y (%)	Harvest (Julian)	Diam (mm)	Wt (g)	Shape	Red (%)	Looks	Quality	Firmness	Brix (%)
2006	40	70	142	78	242	9	50	8	7	9	12
2007	66	10	163	70	170	7	50	8	6	9	11
2008	65	30	158	72	196	7	40	7	7	8	12
2009	33	2	152	ND ^x	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
2010	63	50	169	72	186	7	50	7	7	8	9
2011	24	70	161	ND	177	8	80	8	5	8	10
2012	40	50	158	64	141	8	50	8	7	7	13
Average	47	40	158	71	185	8	53	8	7	8	11

^xND = no data.

‘Gulfsnow’ fruit have been observed on the original seedling and budded trees since 2006. Fruit are large-sized, round to slightly elongated, and attractive (Fig. 2), averaging ≈ 185 g (71 mm diameter) when thinned to ≈ 15 cm apart. Buttons have not been observed in fruit of ‘Gulfsnow’ Commercially ripe fruit exhibit 50% to 60% red over a cream ground color. Fruit shape is round with a recessed tip. In some years, the cream white flesh contains red pigment flecks in the outer flesh, particularly on the sun-exposed side of the fruit, but there is little or no red in the flesh at the pit (the pit itself is red). Flesh texture is smooth, without strings, but is clingy to the pit even when fully ripe. Flesh is firm with good sweetness (10 to 12 °Brix) and does not brown readily on bruised or cut surfaces. Pits are medium-sized and have not been

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Table 2. Tree performance and fruit characteristics² of ‘Gulfsnow’ and reference cultivars (Attapulugus, GA, 2006–12).

Cultivar	Tree		Fruit								
	Bloom (Julian)	Crop ^y (%)	Harvest (Julian)	Diam (mm)	Wt (g)	Shape	Red (%)	Looks	Quality	Firmness	Brix (%)
Gulfercrimson	52 b ^y	77 a	148 c	69 a	163 ab	7 a	80 a	8 a	7 ab	8 a	10 b
June Gold	78 a	35 b	152 bc	59 b	127 bc	4 b	50 b	5 b	6 b	6 b	11 b
Gulfsnow	47 b	40 ab	158 ab	71 a	185 a	8 a	53 b	8 a	7 ab	8 a	11 b
Karla Rose	73 a	51 ab	163 a	56 b	103 c	5 b	90 a	6 b	8 a	6 b	14 a

²Fruit characteristics based on an 8 to 10 fruit sample collected at “shipping ripe” (ground color break) stage. Subjective shape, looks, quality, and firmness ratings: 1 = least desirable, 7 = commercially acceptable, 10 = most desirable.

^yMean separation in each column by Waller–Duncan test (Kratio = 100). Percent croplod (Crop), red skin color (Red), and soluble solids (Brix) data were transformed as arcsine (square root) before analysis (Gomez and Gomez, 1984). Untransformed means presented. Data analyzed by General Linear Models program of the Statistical Analysis System for personal computers (SAS Institute, Inc., 2003). Years were treated as blocks.

Fig. 2. Typical fruit of ‘Gulfsnow’.

observed to split even when croplods were light.

Leaf petioles have small globose glands. Flowers are showy and pink. Anthers are yellow and pollen is bright yellow and abundant. Leaves have shown no bacterial spot [*Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni* (Smith) Vauterin et al.] in test plantings where known susceptible genotypes show typical symptoms.

Comparable in size to ‘Gulfercrimson’ (Krewer et al., 2008) and significantly larger

than ‘June Gold’ or ‘Karla Rose’ nectarine, ‘Gulfsnow’ has no white-fleshed peach competition in its ripening window. ‘Karla Rose’ is a white-fleshed nectarine but has found acceptance only in the U-pick and local sales markets as a result of its small size, poor appearance, and inadequate firmness for shipping. ‘Gulfsnow’s’ most evident weakness is its variable cropping history (Table 1). However, in only two of the seven seasons it has been observed, 2007 (on one-year-old topworked trees) and 2009, did it not have

a commercially usable crop. ‘Gulfsnow’ has displayed good fruit shape, appearance, eating quality, firmness, and a very low incidence of split pits. Although it has significantly less red skin blush than ‘Gulfercrimson’, it has been, nonetheless, judged to be equally attractive as a result of its cream ground color and exceptionally round shape.

Availability

A plant patent has been filed for ‘Gulfsnow’ and a propagation agreement is available through Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc., P.O. Box 110200, Gainesville, FL 32611–0200. Budwood is indexed free of *Prunus Necrotic Ringspot Virus* and *Prune Dwarf Virus*.

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