'Flamecrest' Peach
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'Flamecrest' is a yellow-fleshed, shipping type, freestone peach [Prunus persica (L.) Batsch] released in Sept. 1973. The fruit ripens early midseason, in early July at Fresno or the latter part of 'Suncrest' season. It has been tested only in California. Commercial shipments have been made from cooperating trials with favorable market acceptance.

Origin

'Flamecrest' resulted from the cross 'Fayette' x 109-96 [(Southland' x FV 89-14) x (J. H. Hale' x 'Rio Oso Gem')]. FV 89-14 is [(Fireglow' x 'Hiley') x 'Fireglow']. The cross was made in 1965 at the U. S. Horticultural Field Station, Fresno, and the seedling selected in 1968. The selection was tested under the number F47-60.

Description

Trees of 'Flamecrest' are vigorous and productive. The blossoms are self-fertile and large-petaled. Leaf glands are reniform. The chilling requirement to break the rest period of buds is not known, but time of bloom in comparison with other cultivars would indicate a medium chilling requirement.

Fruit of 'Flamecrest' is large, though not as large as 'Suncrest'. It is round in shape, freestone, and has very light pubescence. The flesh is yellow, firm and smooth-textured. Quality or flavor is good. The flesh softens slowly and uniformly after picking, so the fruit ships and handles well. A bright exterior red color covers more than half the surface of the fruit at maturity. The under-color is a bright attractive yellow. 'Flamecrest' fruit is more attractive than 'Suncrest'. 'Flamecrest' should extend the 'Suncrest' season and partially replace it with a more attractive and smoother fruit.

Availability

Limited amounts of budwood and scionwood may be obtained from John H. Weinberger, U. S. Horticultural Field Station, 2021 South Peach Avenue, Fresno, California 93727. Trees should be available from commercial nurseriesmen at the end of 1974.

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'Fairlane' Nectarine

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'Fairlane' is a yellow-fleshed, clingstone nectarine, Prunus persica (L.) Batsch, released in November 1973. The fruit ripens late in the season, about a week after 'Flamekist'. It is intended for fresh-market use. Commercial shipments from cooperating trials in California have met with favorable acceptance by the trade.

Origin

'Fairlane' originated in the cross ('Le Grand' x 'Sun Grand') x 'Fantasia' made in 1966 at the U. S. Horticultural Field Station, Fresno, California. The seedling first fruited in 1969, and was later placed in commercial trials under the number 94-98.

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'Fairlane' nectarine
glands are reniform. Bacterial spot resistance is unknown.

The fruit of 'Fairlane' is large, though not as large as 'Flamekist' (Fig. 1). It ripens in late August at Fresno, about a week after 'Flamekist'. The shape is ovate. The flesh is clingstone, yellow, quite firm and smooth-textured. The flavor is good. The fruit has a bright yellow ground color and slightly more red external color than 'Flamekist'. Because of their firm flesh and close attachment, fruits sometimes drop from the tree prior to maturity.

'Fairlane' extends the nectarine season with a late-ripening cultivar. Since most late nectarines are clingstone, the clingstone character of 'Fairlane' should not be a serious drawback.

Availability

Limited quantities of budwood or scionwood may be obtained by writing John H. Weinberger, U. S. Horticultural Field Station, 2021 South Peach Avenue, Fresno, California 93727. Certified wood is available from the Foundation Plant Materials Service, Dr. Leon Cory, University of California, Davis, California 95616.

'Blue Troll' Browallia

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There are very few small "blue"-flowered ornamental plants adapted to use as bedding or potted plants or for use in hanging baskets. A breeding program was initiated in the Ornamentals Laboratory to develop a clone of Browallia suitable for year-round production in small containers (10 cm pots) that would have mass-market appeal.

The cultivated Browallias are derived from Browallia speciosa Hook. and are grown in the garden or greenhouse for the showy large pale-blue flowers. The plant is very versatile in its horticultural uses. Abundant flowering occurs through the summer when plants are grown outdoors in a loose loamy soil, in partial shade, watered, and fertilized frequently.

Excellent pot plants can be grown year-round for use in a sunny window, and will flower for many months with a minimum of care, even in midwinter. The plants are also increasing in use for hanging baskets with minimum attention, a full cascading type plant can easily be produced in greenhouse culture for homeowners sale.

Origin

'Blue Troll' (Fig. 1) is a dwarf type Browallia which originated in a seedling population from self-pollination of a fairly compact plant, which in turn was selected from a population derived from commercial seed of Browallia 'Blue Bells Improved'.

Description

'Blue Troll' is short, bushy, and erect. Basal shoots are freely produced and fairly stiff with short internodes. The slightly crinkled leaves are smaller and retained longer than those of the parental cultivar Blue Bells Improved. The flower is quite similar in shape, no., and color to those of normal types, although somewhat smaller. 'Blue Troll' is semi-dwarf and branching so that no pinching is needed to provide an excellent pot, bedding, or hanging basket plant.

This cultivar is propagated from seed that requires high light intensity for optimum germination. Seed germinates best at 24-29°C without cover on the germinating medium under light mist. It flowered one week later than the commercial cultivar when grown in a greenhouse (24°C maximum) during the autumn and winter. Flowering was sporadic in the greenhouse but quite profuse in a 21°C growth chamber during the summer. Flower buds failed to open on plants grown in growth chambers maintained at 27°C or above. Abundant seed set occurred when plants were grown and pollinated at 21-24°C in greenhouse or growth chamber.

In addition to its use as a semidwarf, blue-flowering, midwinter and early spring pot plant, 'Blue Troll' has potential value as a bedding plant in areas where summers are cool. It is a potential source of new germplasm for further Browallia improvement.

Availability

Small quantities of seed are available to interested experiment stations and commercial breeders upon request until March 1, 1975.

Fig. 1. 'Blue Bells Improved' browallia seedling on the left, 'Blue Troll' on the right.