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'Idlewild' Peach

J.E. Boudreaux¹, C.E. Johnson², P.L. Hawthorne³, W.A. Young⁴,
R.L. Cunningham⁵, T.J. Raiford⁶, F.J. Peterson⁷, N.L. Horn⁸,
P.W. Wilson⁹, and D.W. Newsom¹⁰

Louisiana Agriculture Experiment Station, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

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'Idlewild' peach [*Prunus persica* (L.) Batsch] was released by the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station to provide a 500- to 600-hr chilling-requirement cultivar which produces a good quality fruit. 'Idlewild' produces a heavy crop of medium to large semi-freestone fruit that ripen 36 days before 'Elberta' or about June 9 in southeastern Louisiana. 'Idlewild' has exhibited good resistance to bacterial leaf spot [*Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *pruni* (Smith 1903) Dye 1978] when grown under southeastern Louisiana conditions.

Origin

'Idlewild', tested as L71-A73-30, is a 1971 seedling selected in 1973 by P.L. Hawthorne from a group of open-pollinated seedlings of 'LaFeliciana'. This selection was evaluated for 9 years.

Description

Trees of 'Idlewild' are vigorous, strong, and productive. No tendency toward sunscald has been noted. Leaves are large, and dark green with serrations and 2 to 4 reniform glands. The cold requirement to break rest is estimated at 500–600 hr at 7.2°C or below.

Blossoms are nonshowy, light pink with rose margins, and self-fertile. Flower buds and fruit set have been heavy each year of evaluation and heavy thinning has been re-

quired since it first came into production in 1973. Fruit shape is round to oval with a nonprominent suture (Fig. 1) and almost equal halves. Surface color is medium yellow with about 75–80% bright red over-color. The flesh is yellow with red flecks throughout. The semi-freestone fruit are medium to large in diameter (5.7–7.0 cm) with medium to long

pubescence. Fruit quality, firmness, and texture are good for the season.

A uniform score card system of rating peach cultivars and selections is used within the research orchard. An average rating of each characteristic recorded for 'Idlewild' for 9 years is presented in Table 1.

Results of experimental plantings have shown that 'Idlewild' is a consistent producer of large, attractive fruits that ripen 12–15 days after 'Bicentennial' and 4–6 days before 'Harvester'. This cultivar is recommended for southern Louisiana and comparable areas where a cultivar requiring an accumulation of 500–600 hr below 7.2°C is required.

Availability

A limited amount of budwood is available from the Idlewild Experiment Station, Clinton, LA 70722.

Table 1. Nine-year average fruit ratings for 'Idlewild' peach.

Characteristics	Fruit rating ^z
Fruit set	8–9
Size (diameter)	5.7 cm–7.0 cm
Shape	(slight suture) 8
Pubescence	6–7
Red skin color	75–80
(%) of skin with red over color)	
Flesh color	6–7
(freedom from red)	
Attractiveness	7–8
Firmness	7–8
Freestone	(semi-freestone) 6–7
Texture	7–8
Quality (flavor)	7–8

^zRatings, except size and skin color are on a scale of 1 (completely unsatisfactory) to 10 (best).

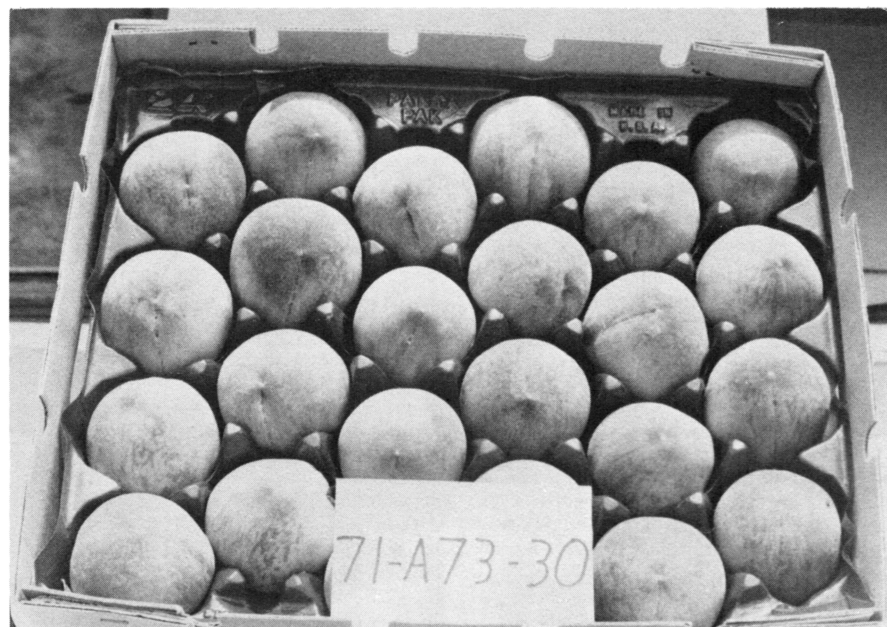


Fig. 1. Fruit of 'Idlewild' peach (L71-A73-30).

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¹Assistant Professor, Dept. of Horticulture.

²Assistant Professor, North Louisiana Experiment Station, Calhoun, LA 71225.

³Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Horticulture.

⁴Superintendent, North Louisiana Experiment Station, Calhoun, LA 71225.

⁵Farm Research Supervisor II, Idlewild Experiment Station, Clinton, LA 70722.

⁶Research Associate, Dept. of Horticulture.

⁷Superintendent, Idlewild Experiment Station, Clinton, LA 70722.

⁸Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology.

⁹Assistant Professor, Dept. of Horticulture.

¹⁰Head, Dept. of Horticulture.