

'Granite Supreme' Peach

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'Granite Supreme' is a high-chilling, high-yielding peach [*Prunus persica* (L.) Batsch] with very firm, yellow flesh that ripens 5 days after 'Flavorcrest' and 4 days before 'Redhaven'. It was named by Granite Belt growers during commercial evaluation and has shown potential as a fresh-market peach.

Origin

'Granite Supreme' resulted from a selfed seedling of a selection from the cross 'Goldmine' nectarine × 'Early Elberta Type' peach. The original cross was made in 1967 by C.W. Winks with a population of 14 seedlings. Self-pollinated seed were collected in 1974 by A.M. Hibberd. 'Granite Supreme' was selected in 1980 and tested as code number NIT6. It has been evaluated at the Granite Belt Horticultural Research Station (GBHRS), Applethorpe, Queensland, the Knoxfield Horticultural Research Institute, Knoxfield, Victoria, and commercial orchards on the Granite Belt in southeast Queensland. 'Granite Supreme' was trialled at the GBHRS, Applethorpe, on 'Nemaguard' and 'Golden Queen' seedling rootstock and on its own roots. It was compared with the standard cultivars Redhaven, Coronet, and Flavorcrest grown under similar conditions (Tables 1 and 2).

Description

The fruit are medium size, averaging 134 g, and attractively colored with a dark red blush covering 75% to 100% of the skin (Table 1). In some years, the red of the skin can be too dark at full maturity. Shape is completely round with no prominent stylar tip or suture bulge (Fig. 1). The skin has a moderate covering of very short fuzz. Flesh is yellow, melting, with good sub-acid but well-balanced flavor, clingstone, and with exceptional firmness. 'Granite Supreme' ripens during the last week of December at Applethorpe (50% harvest on 31 Dec.) and in mid-January at Knoxfield (50% harvest on 15 Jan.). At Applethorpe, it ripens 4 days before 'Redhaven' and 5 days after 'Flavorcrest' (Table 1).

The tree is vigorous and productive and has outyielded its competitors in cumulative yield for the first three seasons of fruiting

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tive to standard varieties, is estimated at 800 hr below 7C. It is moderately susceptible to bacterial spot (*Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *pruni*) but can be grown without problem under Granite Belt conditions.

Availability

Limited supplies of budwood can be obtained from the Granite Belt Horticultural Research Station, Applethorpe, Queensland, 4378 Australia.

(Table 2). Blossoms are nonshowy. Chilling requirement, based on flowering dates rela-



Fig. 1. 'Granite Supreme' peach.

Table 1. Performance of 'Granite Supreme' in comparison with 'Redhaven', 'Flavorcrest', and 'Coronet' at Applethorpe.

Characters ²	Granite Supreme	Redhaven	Flavorcrest	Coronet
First bloom date	5 Sept. (4 Sept.) ³	12 Sept.	4 Sept.	4 Sept.
Full bloom date	13 Sept. (12 Sept.)	22 Sept.	12 Sept.	11 Sept.
First harvest date	29 Dec. (14 Jan.)	2 Jan.	24 Dec.	24 Dec.
50% harvest date	31 Dec. (15 Jan.)	4 Jan.	26 Dec.	26 Dec.
Average fruit wt (g)	134 (120)	151	146	129
Fruit size range (cm)	5.0-7.5 (6.4-7.2)	6.0-8.0	5.5-7.5	5.5-7.0
Mean ratings ⁴				
Red blush	4.0	2.8	4.5	3.8
Attractiveness	3.7	3.3	4.5	4.0
Shape	3.7	3.0	3.0	3.0
Fuzz	3.7	2.7	3.0	2.3
Firmness	4.3	3.0	5.0	3.0
Flavor	3.0	4.0	3.0	3.7
Stone freedom	1.0	5.0	5.0	4.5
Bacterial leaf spot	3.1	4.8	4.6	5.0

¹Mean of nine trees from 1984-1988.

²Performance at Knoxfield (1984-1987) in parentheses.

³From 1 (least desirable) to 5 (most desirable) during 1982-1988, as judged by authors.

Table 2. Mean yields (kg/tree) of 'Granite Supreme' and other peach cultivars for their first three bearing seasons at Applethorpe.¹

Cultivar	Yield (kg/tree)			Cumulative 1985-88
	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	
Granite Supreme	4.2 a	14.5 a	21.4 a	40.1 A
Redhaven	2.7 a	13.5 a	14.9 bc	31.1 b
Flavorcrest	4.2 a	8.7 b	15.8 b	28.7 b
Coronet	3.5 ab	12.1 a	14.3 bc	29.9 b

¹Means of nine trees. Means in columns not followed by the same letter differ significantly at *P* = 0.05 (lowercase) or 0.01 (uppercase).