

MICHIGAN PEACH SPONSOR NEWS - Issue 1 - 2006

Produced by the Michigan Peach Sponsors—a non-profit organization for research and promotion of peaches
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Early Spring Annual Michigan Peach Sponsor Update Session Tuesday March 14th, 2006

An early season peach update session will be held Tuesday March 14th, from 8:30 AM to 12 noon at the Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center, 1791 Hillandale Rd, Benton Harbor, MI. Topics covered at this half-day session will include crop prospects for 2006, insect pest management, pheromone disruption, bacterial spot control, new peach variety profiles, peach marketing prospects. A short business meeting including election of Michigan Peach Sponsor board members will be held.

Registration at door beginning at 7:30 AM, \$5 for Michigan Peach Sponsor members, \$10 for non-members. Refreshments included. The program begins at 8:30 AM.

Contact Mich State University Fruit Agent Bill Shane at 269-944-1477 x 205 for more details.



Dual-tube pheromone dispenser



Bacterial spot of peach



Peach tree borer

Directions to Spring Peach Meeting at SW Michigan Research and Extension Center:

Travel on I-94 to exit 30 (Napier Avenue). Turn east on Napier and go 2 1/2 miles to Hillandale Road. Turn south (right) and travel to the entrance to SWMREC (about 1/4 mile on the east (left) side of Hillandale Road). Follow right fork of drive. Meeting will be held in the Jordan B. Tatter Conference room



Michigan Peach Sponsor Bronze Members for 2006

Norman Dudek, Dow AgriScience, C & J Stein, Dave Babbitt, Watervliet Fruit Exchange, Harold Gunderson, Greg Prillwitz, Those Hersey Bros, Calderwood Farms, Gowan, Don Baiers, George Shane, Radoms, Roger Miller, Walter Skibbe

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7901 Territorial Rd, Watervliet MI 49098

Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention Jan 31—Feb 2, 2006 in Hersey, Pennsylvania

Peaches will be an important part of the annual Hersey meeting in central Pennsylvania. The peach program will be all day Wednesday February 1, 2006.

Peach program Wednesday morning:

9:00 Understanding Peach Rusty Spot Epidemics—Dr. Norman Lalancette

9:30 Thinning Peaches—Dr. Richard Marini

10:00 Changes in Handling Peaches—Dr. Carlos Crisosto

11:00 Peach Insect Control in the Post-Guthion Era—Dr. Peter Shearer

Peach program Wednesday afternoon:

1:30 Peach Grower Panel: IPM Strategies—Mr. Dean Polk, moderator

2:30 Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture applicator training

3:00 Handling Columnar and Pillar Peach Trees—Steve Miller, USDA

3:30 Wooliness in Peaches: Cause and Remedy—Dr. Carlos Crisosto, UC Davis

For further information contact Maureen Irvin, Executive Secretary, State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania, 717-677-4184, email: shap@supernet.com

Working with Growers & Buyers to Effectively Market Eastern Peaches

Summary prepared from presentation by Philip Neary, Director of Operations & Grower Relations Sunny Valley International at the SW Mich Hort Days 2006.



Sunny Valley International is a produce sales agent with focus on fresh fruit. Sunny Valley was established by Chilean grape growers in 1986, sold to management between 1991 and 1997, and started marketing domestic products in mid 1990s. Sunny Valley has its headquarters in Glassboro, NJ with offices in Santiago, Chile; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Valencia, Spain. The company handles blueberries, peaches, grapes, clementines, asparagus, and pears. The FOB sales for peaches and nectarines are approximately \$12 million per year.



Sunny Valley has used the Jersey Fruit label since 1995. Peak volume year for peaches/nectarines for Sunny Valley was 1.2 mill. ½ bu. equivalent in 2001. 90% plus of Jersey Fruit label now packed at Eastern Propak. White peaches constitute 5% of total peaches handled. Nectarines are 8% of the peach/nectarine total volume. Approximately 800,000 – 900,000 ½ bu. equivalent of peaches/nectarines expected for 2006. Sunny Valley expanded their peach marketing with the addition of two growers from central Georgia in 2004. Peaches from the South Carolina ridge area were added starting in 2005. Approximately 500,000 ½ bu. equivalent are expected from GA & SC in 2006.

Phil summarized techniques, trends, problems, & things that seem to work well for successful growers:

- Virgin planting site ground pays off.
- Most growers open center and relatively short trees (109 trees per acre). Closer plantings come into production quicker but growers have to cut more wood later.
- Earlier thinning, including bloom thinning, has had a substantial impact on getting bigger fruit
- IPM programs such as pheromone disruption in NJ works well, but no formal IPM in south
- Problems with scale has shown up after loss of PennCap M insecticide
- Most of our growers use plastic Macrobins bins
- Communication with packing house and sales is important for success
- Supervision at every bin wagon pays off
- Seeing trend towards picking more mature fruit in peach industry
- Growers are providing sizers to picking crew to encourage them to pick minimum size
- Field grading pays off



Atlantic Sunrise™ tray pac

For Sunny Valley the ½ bushel volume fill box for peaches is most important pack, with some hand packing of 2 ¾" and larger fruit. Specialty packing is growing and is approximately 15% of the peach/nectarine volume in NJ in 2005. The role of the specialty pac, mostly tray format, is to create new business in a new category.

New peach varieties from Rutgers breeding program

Phil Baugher, Vice President of Marketing, Adams County Nursery presented a very nice summary at the recent 2006 Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention, St. Catherines, Ontario) of new peach selections recently released from the peach breeding program of Dr. Joe Goffreda of Rutgers University. Although there is little commercial experience to date with these selection, the following is a brief synopsis of Phil's talk, highlighting several selections that should be of interest to peach growers.

Peento peaches are the flat, doughnut shaped peaches. Up to now, **Saturn** has been the only Peento adapted to Michigan's climate. Saturn is a white fleshed, peento peach with excellent mild flavor, productive, and hardy. Ripens 5 days before Red Haven. Flesh has a tendency to tear at stem end and some calyx end cracking.

The new peento peaches from New Jersey are:

NJF15 (D51-270) Flat yellow flesh peach, ripens 8 days before Red Haven, spicy

NJF16 (D91-134) is a yellow skin and flesh flat peach from Rutgers University. Ripens approximately 4 days before Red Haven. Good size for peento.

NJF17 (D91-120) Flat peach, all cream slight green. 2 1/2 inch diameter, good firmness, spicy taste, ripens approximately 4 days after Red Haven



NJF16 yellow peento peach from New Jersey breeding program of Dr. Joe Goffreda.

New round, yellow fleshed peaches from New Jersey are:

Desiree (Garnet Beauty X Sentry), round, yellow flesh peach, highly colored, good firmness, ripens before Garnet Beauty

Messina = NJ352 = (D101-162), round, yellow flesh peach, Cresthaven season

Gloria = NJ351 (K40-34), round, yellow flesh peach, very good size, late Loring season, nice color and high brix

Victoria round, yellow flesh peach, ripens 40 day after Red Haven. Biscoe X Fairtime cross.

New round, white fleshed nectarine from New Jersey are:

NJN100 (K56-4) white flesh nectarine, Garnet Beauty season, good size for nectarine

Understanding Peach Leaf Curl - Peach leaf curl is a sporadic disease of nectarine and peaches caused by the fungus *Taphrina deformans*. The pathogen causes leaves to thicken, turn red and yellow, and usually drop prematurely, weakening the tree. Symptoms on fruit are less common. The disease is found worldwide but is more common in climates with cool extended springs such as the Pacific Northwest. 1997, with an unusually cool spring, was a severe year for peach leaf curl in Michigan.

Better understanding of environmental conditions needed for infection will help to decipher seasons when fungicide sprays are not doing the job. Recent work by Italian scientists have helped to understand the temperature and wetting conditions favoring peach leaf curl infections. In the 2000 study by Giosue and co-workers, peaches were susceptible to infection for at least 9 weeks after bud break. Little or no infection occurred when air temperature was greater than 60 F (15 C). Infection was greater with temperatures below 52 F (11 C) and greatest with temperatures of 48 F (9 C) and below. At least 12 hours of wetness was needed for infection at 54 F (12 C). V. Rossi and coworkers studied infection in growth chamber and orchard settings. Minimum rainfall needed for infection was approximately 0.12 inches (3 mm).

The incubation period (the time between infection and first symptom appearance) ranged from 11 days at a constant temperature of 47 F (8 C) to 29 days at 67 F (19 C). The 2000 study by Giosue showed the incubation period could be as short as 9 days.

Thankfully, peach leaf curl has been relatively easy to control in Michigan with a timely fall or very early spring single application of Bravo, Ziram, copper or several other labeled fungicides. Reduced control of peach leaf curl with copper fungicides, reported from New Zealand, has not been reported in Michigan.

References:

- Rossi, V., Bolognesi, M., Languasco, L., and Giosue, S. 2006. Influence of environmental conditions on infection of peach shoots by *Taphrina deformans*. *Phytopathology* 96:155-163.
- Giosue, S., Spada, G., Rossi, V. Carli, G, and Ponti, I. 2000. Forecasting infections of the leaf curl disease on peaches caused by *Taphrina deformans*. *European Journal of Plant Pathology* 106:563-571.
- Cheah, L. H., Tate, K. G., Hunt, A. W. and DeSilva, N., 1993. Decreased sensitivity of *Taphrina deformans* (peach leaf curl) to copper fungicides in Hawkes Bay. *Proc. 46th N.Z. Plant Protection Conf.:*15-17.



Red, rubbery peach leaf curl symptoms on leaves (top) and fruit (bottom). Credit: B. Shane

Lobbying Trip to Washington by the National Peach Council (summary from Charles Walker, Executive Secretary, National Peach Council)

Plans for NATIONAL PEACH COUNCIL'S (NPC's) next lobbying trip to Washington are now complete. The Council will spend 4 ½ days (March 13 through March 17, 2006) in Washington calling on members of the Senate. The Council will focus on the issue of Comprehensive Immigration Reform, and on convincing the Senate of the need for a Guest Worker Program. As many, perhaps all, of you are aware, the House has already passed its Immigration Bill (H.R. 4437), and it has been described as an enforcement only bill. Therefore, it's now up to the Senate Judiciary Committee first, and then the full Senate, as to whether a Guest Worker Program will be allowed as part of any forthcoming Immigration Reform Bill from the Congress. Some of us, perhaps most us, cannot believe that the Congress would pass an Immigration Reform Bill that does not include a Guest Worker Program. However, it is by no means assured that such will be the case.

The Council's goal on this trip will be to: (1) Call on every member of the Senate Judiciary Committee; and (2) call on as many Senators from peach producing states as possible.

Peach growers and all interested parties are encouraged to accompany NPC on this trip to meet with our Senators.

For further information contact Charles Walker, Executive Secretary, 12 Nicklaus Lane, Suite 101, Columbia, SC 29229 Tel. (803) 788-7101; Fax (803) 865-8090. e-mail: charleswalker@worldnet.att.net

Michigan Yellow Flesh Peach Fresh Market Harvest Windows

William Shane

Note: estimated harvest dates are tentative for newer varieties. The harvest order will vary with the season and crop load.

Older peach varieties		Newer varieties with significant production		Newest peach varieties	
Harbinger	-33*	PF-1	-30	Queencrest	-30
Harrow Diamond	-25	PF-5B	-19	Earlstar	-18 ^
				PF-5D Big	-17 ^^
Garnet Beauty	-10	PF-7	-10	Brightstar	-12 ^
Early Red Haven	-10	Summer Serenade	-10	PF-8 Ball	-8 ^^
		Rising Star	-8	PF-7A Freestone	-8 ^^
				Glenglo	-7
				PF 9A-007	-5 ^^
Red Haven	0	Blazing Star	2	PF 11	0 ^^
Reliance	0	Starfire	3	PF Lucky 12	4 ^^
Vivid	2	Redstar	3	PF Lucky 13	6 ^
Bellaire	3	PF 12B	4		
PF-12A	3	PF 14 New Jersey	4		
John Boy	3				
Glohaven	8	PF 15A	8	John Boy II	8 ^
Canadian Harmony	10	Bounty	10	Gloria	13 ^^
Loring	12	PF 17	12	PF 19-007	16 ^^
Suncrest	12	Coralstar	12	PF 22-007	17 ^^
		PF 23	14	Mecina	17 ^^
		PF 20-007	16		
Cresthaven	24	Allstar	18	Beaumont	18 ^
		PF 24-007	18	PF Lucky 24B	20 ^
		Glowingstar	24	PF 24C	20 ^
Madison	28	PF 25	28	PF 27A	30 ^
Harcrest	28	LauroI	41	PF 28-007	32 ^^
Fayette	28			PF 35-007	35 ^^
Encore	31			Autumn Star	37 ^^
				Victoria	38 ^^
				PF 36-007	40 ^^

* = estimated harvest days before (-) or after Red Haven. ^ = little experience, ^^ = very little experience to date.