

# MICHIGAN PEACH SPONSOR NEWS ISSUE 2 - 2004

Produced by the Michigan Peach Sponsors—a non-profit organization for research and promotion of peaches  
P.O. Box 1035, Coloma, MI 48038, 269-463-3351 (Don Baiers)  
web address: [www.michiganpeach.org](http://www.michiganpeach.org)



## Michigan Peach Sponsor Board

President - Don Baiers, Secretary/Treasurer - Ed Czuba

Directors - Annette Bjorge, Kurt Weber, Fred Koenigshoff, Randy Willmeng, Matt Moser

Advisor and Newsletter Editor - Bill Shane (269) 944-1477 ext (205)

National Peach Council Representative— Paul Friday

## Developing Alternative Markets for peach cull fruit — A new Michigan State University GREEN project - Bill Shane and Tom Zabadal, Michigan State University



Michigan's fresh market peach crop averages approximately 30 million pounds per year. **Currently there is no alternative market for cull peach fruit.** During the packing process a significant volume of the crop is rejected due to imperfections and then discarded because there is currently no alternative market for rejected fruit. Packing houses assess growers handling charges for cull peach fruit. Wineries in Michigan have used Michigan peaches to make wine and brandy but the high costs of removing pits by hand have hampered this use.

**Investigators** Bill Shane and Tom Zabadal at the SW Michigan Research and Extension Center, Benton Harbor, Michigan are heading a MSU GREEN project to stimulate the development of alternative markets for Michigan peaches.



Figure 1. Precrusher breaks up fruit before going into Langsencamp pulper-finisher.

The strategy for the project is to develop a practical processing procedure with available and/or affordable equipment to separate pits and flesh and explore products that could be produced from the resulting puree. One of the initial targets is the use of cull fruit for fermentation products such as wine and brandy in the Michigan wine industry.



In 2004, the MSU project team acquired a used Langsencamp pulper-finisher with the help of Peterson and Sons Winery and adapted a precrusher to reduce soft cull peaches to puree. During August and September, tons of cull fruit from Greg Orchards Produce, Inc., were converted at the SW Center facility to puree which was trucked in bins or barrels to winery cooperators Round Barn Winery, St. Julian Winery, and Sandhill Crane Vineyards for use in wine and brandy.

The results from the 2004 season were very encouraging and the experiences gained are being used to refine fruit handling and pulping procedures for the 2005 season.



Figure 2. Bulk tank of peach puree from processing of peach culls. .

**Guide to New Fresh Market Peach Varieties for Michigan.**

The peach variety picture in Michigan has been changing quickly over the last 10 years. Several new peach varieties have been introduced over recent years by the Fruit Acres and Paul Friday breeding programs and elsewhere to help fill gaps or deficiencies in the Michigan yellow fresh market peach season. The list of established and new varieties and their approximate harvest windows are presented here for reference. Growers are advised to plant test plantings to gain experience with very new varieties.

**Table 1. Established and new fresh market yellow peach variety harvest seasons**

Availability in southern Michigan*	Established peach varieties	Newer peach varieties	Very new peach varieties
Early July	Harbinger	PF1	
Mid to late July	Garnet Beauty Early Red Haven	PF5B, PF7 Summer Serenade	PF5D Big, PF7A Freestone
Late July		Rising Star	PF9A-007, Glenglo
Late July to early August	Red Haven, Bellaire, PF12A, John Boy	Starfire, Blazingstar, PF12B, PF14 New Jersey, PF15A, Redstar	PF11 Peach, PF Lucky 13
Early to mid August	Glohaven, Loring, Suncrest, Canadian Harmony	PF17	PF 19-007, PF Lucky 21
Mid to late August		PF23, Allstar, Coralstar, Contender	PF20-007, PF22-007
Late August	Cresthaven	Glowingstar, PF24-007, PF25	PF Lucky 24B, PF24C Cold Hardy
Late August to early September	Redskin, Harcrest	Encore, PF27A	PF28-007
Early September and beyond	Fayette, Encore		PF30-007, PF35-007, PF36-007, Autumnstar

\* Harvest dates are estimated for average southern Michigan season. Sites further inland from the Great Lakes tend to ripen sooner and northern sites ripen later. Harvest orders will differ from year to year.

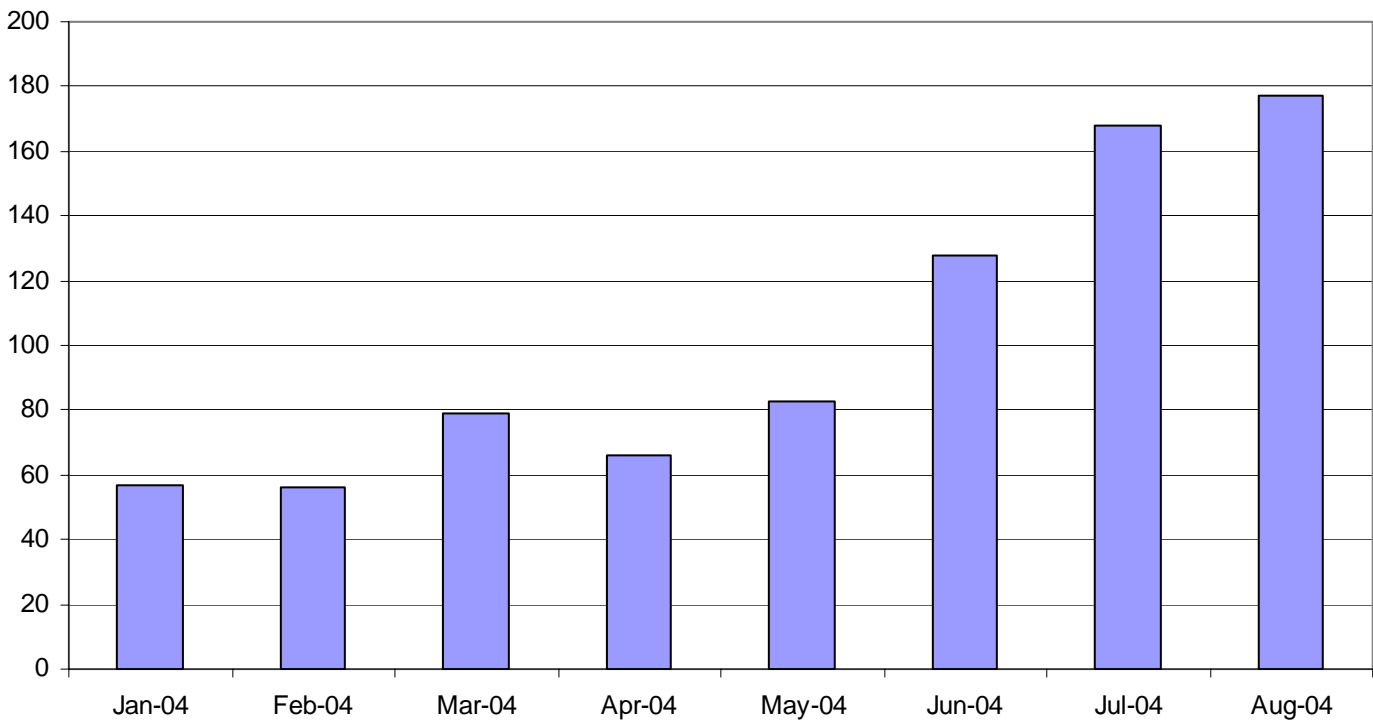
<p><b>CEREXAGRIC INC</b> 9359 Riverside Drive, Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-626-9920</p>	<p><b>MACRO PLASTICS</b> 15N793 Pheasant Fields Ln, Hampshire, IL 60140 847-697-2859</p>
---	--

**The Michigan Peach Sponsor Web Site attracts visitors seeking information about Michigan peaches.**

The Michigan Peach Sponsors maintains a web site [www.michiganpeach.org](http://www.michiganpeach.org) containing a wide range of information about Michigan peaches and Michigan peach industry. Looking at the user statistics, the site has averaged nearly 180 visitors per day during the month of August 2004.

A new feature added to the web site this year was a “2004 Peach Crop Status” report by Bill Shane of Michigan State University in which he gave periodic updates on crop conditions and varieties being harvested. The top four areas of interest shown by visitors to the web sites were: information about planting peach pits, sources for Michigan peaches, recipes, and nutritional information.

**Daily Average Visits to Michigan Peach Sponsor Web Site**



<p><b>GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT</b>            8302 Edgewood Rd, Berrien Springs, MI 49103            269-471-9329</p>	<p><b>RADOMS FARM SUPPLY</b>            7330 Territorial Rd, Watervliet, MI 49098            269-468-5898</p>
<p><b>GREG ORCHARDS AND PRODUCE</b>            4949 N. Branch Rd, Benton Harbor, MI 49022            269-944-1413</p>	<p><b>HILLTOP FRUIT TREES LLC</b>            P.O. Box 538, Hartford, MI 49057            269-621-3135</p>
<p><b>ADAMS COUNTY NURSERY</b>            P.O. Box 108, Aspers, PA 17034            717-677-8105</p>	<p><b>BIRDS EYE FOODS</b>            P.O. Box 1050, Fennville, MI 49408            269-561-8211</p>

## Management of San Jose Scale

San Jose scales overwinter predominantly in the black cap stage, although in mild years some adult females may also survive. In late March, nymphs resume their growth, molting two or three times before becoming adults in May. Winged adult males emerge to mate with females. The adult female San Jose scale remains under its shell, which is gray and circular; the body under the shell covering is yellow. After mating, females produce eggs, which are hidden under their covers. Crawlers from the overwintering females begin hatching in May, with their peak emergence usually in early June. There are usually two generations per year. Crawlers may be present throughout the summer and fall.



Dead peach trees due to severe San Jose scale infestation in previous season



Peach limb with many overwintering San Jose scales. Dark color of scales is due to treatment with dormant oil.

San Jose scales cause injury by feeding on twigs, branches, and fruit; they may also inject salivary toxins while feeding. Heavy populations on the bark can cause gumming and kill twigs, branches, and entire trees if left uncontrolled. A characteristic, red halo-like discoloration often forms around the insect on twigs and fruit.

Dormant sprays of oil (or oil plus another insecticide when populations are heavy) are recommended to keep scale populations suppressed, followed by regular monitoring to see if populations are increasing.

Monitor for San Jose scale on wood during and after the growing season and on fruit at harvest. Because of the damage potential of this pest, annual oil sprays during the dormant or delayed dormant period may be recommended, especially where the insect was detected in recent years. Control heavy populations of San Jose scale by applying an oil spray plus an insecticide such as Esteem during the dormant period. Some field populations of San Jose scale have shown strong resistance to organophosphate insecticides such as diazinon.



Nectarines with San Jose scale spotting—credit: Rutgers University

Dormant sprays have less impact on beneficial than postbloom sprays. Oil-only sprays are

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

effective in orchards where broad-spectrum insecticides are not used and where applications are made before approximately March 30.

If inadequate control is achieved with the dormant spray, treatments are also effective when applied soon after the emergence of the crawlers in June. Use pheromone traps in March to monitor male San Jose scale flights or double-sided sticky tape for monitoring crawlers in May and June. To time treatments, accumulate degree-days using a lower threshold of 51°F and an upper threshold of 90°F. (For assistance in calculating degree-days, see "Degree-days" on the UC IPM Web site.) The optimum time for spring spraying is 600 to 700 degree-days (DD) after the beginning of the male flight or 200 DD after crawler emergence begins.

**Select a Taste of Michigan helps to promote Michigan peaches in 2004 for second year.**

The Michigan *Select a Taste of Michigan* Program promoted Michigan peaches again in 2004. The promotion focused on Meijers stores in the Grand Rapids, Holland, Muskegon, and Lansing areas during the peak of the August peach season. Consumers were wooed to peaches by in-store tasting demos, store flyers, and radio remotes. The *Select A Taste of Michigan* Program is funded through the Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems program through July 2005 with additional support from the Michigan fruit industry.



<b>JACK BROWN PRODUCE</b> 8035 Fruit Ridge NW, Sparta, MI 49345 616-887-9568	<b>MOSER FRUIT TREE SALES, INC</b> 5329 Defield Rd, Coloma, MI 49038 Matt 269-468-4356
<b>CULBY'S FRUIT BROKER</b> 1010 Bluecreek Rd, Benton Harbor, MI 49022 269-944-1881	<b>THE NURSERY CONNECTION</b> P.O. Box 874, Coloma, MI 49038 269-468-5732, 509-969-0542 cell
<b>STARK BRO'S NURSERIES</b> P.O. Box 398, Louisiana, MO 63353 800-435-8733	<b>SUMMIT SALES</b> 55826 60th Avenue, Lawrence, MI 49064 269-674-8866
<b>TRICKL-EEZ COMPANY</b> 4266 Hollywood Rd, St. Joseph, MI 49085 269-429-8200	<b>PETERSON FARMS, INC</b> 3104 Baseline Rd, Shelby, MI 49455 231-861-6333

**Michigan peach survey for 2003 shows rise in processing industry**—Bill Shane, Peach Specialist, Michigan State University. Source of date: Michigan Dept of Agriculture Fruit Rotational Surveys.

Processing peach acreage is on the rise and fresh market peaches has declined somewhat in Michigan according to the 2003 Michigan Department of Agriculture rotational survey. Peach trees totaled 5,700 acres at the end of 2003, unchanged since 2000. The top three varieties were Red Ha-

Table 1. Michigan peach acreage for three survey years.

<i>Fresh market varieties</i>	State acreage for year		
	1997	2000	2003
<b>Allstar</b>	*	52	55
<b>Bellaire</b>	140	125	115
<b>Canadian Harmony</b>	355	200	150
<b>Coralstar</b>	*	62	87
<b>Cresthaven</b>	170	100	85
<b>Fayette</b>	105	76	61
<b>Glohaven</b>	170	120	105
<b>Glowingstar</b>	*	76	74
<b>Loring</b>	210	125	105
<b>Newhaven</b>	220	140	90
<b>PF1</b>	*	55	56
<b>PF12A</b>	135	120	110
<b>PF15A</b>	62	75	80
<b>PF17</b>	200	150	160
<b>PF23</b>	145	120	150
<b>Red Haven</b>	1730	1330	1130
<b>Redskin</b>	275	185	145
<i>Processing varieties</i>			
<b>Goldnine (Arkansas 9)</b>	245	770	890
<b>Baby Gold 5</b>	960	1025	1040
<b>Vinegold</b>	0	0	87
<i>Unclassified varieties</i>	600	800	980
<b>Total state acreage</b>	6000	5700	5700

ven, Baby Gold 5, and Goldnine About one-third of the acreage were processing peaches. Processing peaches for the state totaled 2017 acres in the 2003 inventory compared to 1005 acres in the survey of 1997.

Older fresh market varieties declining in acreage included Red Haven, Canadian Harmony, Cresthaven, Glohaven, Fayette, Loring, Newhaven, and Redskin. New varieties appearing on the scene since the late 1990s include Allstar, Coralstar, and Glowingstar from the Stellar series, and PF1, PF12A, PF15A, and PF23 from the Flamin' Fury series (Table 1).

Other newer fresh market peach varieties appearing in the Michigan survey for 2003 include Blazingstar (14 acres), Blushingstar (15 acres), Redstar (26 acres), Risingstar (32 acres), Starfire (40 acres), PF-7 (14 acres), PF20-007 (7 acres), PF24-007 (46 acres), PF25 (11 acres), PF27A (54 acres), PF5B (23 acres), PF14 New Jersey (21 acres) and Summer Serenade (21 acres).

The turnover of fresh market varieties is primarily due to a switch to varieties with more red skin color, less split pits, better hardiness, and better fruit size. The increase of processing variety acreage is largely due to demand from Peterson Farms, Inc, of Shelby, Michigan.

Looking at the acreage of each variety and the relative harvest order, it is apparent that **there is still a big concentration of potential peach harvest centered on the Red Haven season**, at week 4 (see figure). This is primarily due to the relatively high acreage of Red Haven, which was estimated at 1130 acres in the 2003 MDA survey.

Looking at a breakdown of variety acreage by year planted (Table 2), **Red Haven is still the predominant variety** being planted in Michigan over the last 5 years. However, much of this Red Haven acreage are old orchards. Approximately 83% of the 1130 acres of Red Haven in Michigan were planted in 1993 or before and are likely to be removed over the next few years.

**The continued decline of Red Haven acreage is expected** as wholesale growers switch to varieties with better color, less split pits and better size. Continued planting of Red Haven will likely be primarily by direct sale growers for their customers who ask for this variety by name. The reduction of the early August production peak will be healthy for the Michigan peach market.

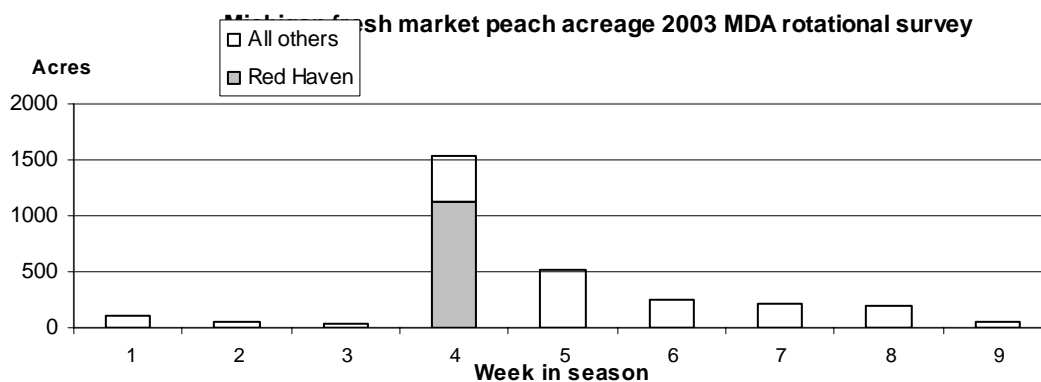


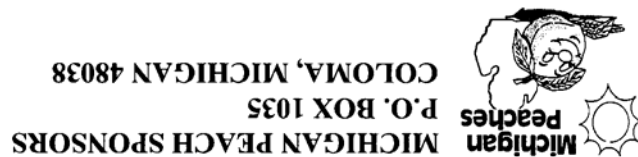
**Table 2. Michigan fresh market yellow melting flesh peach acreage by year planted. MDA Rotational Surveys.**

Variety	Harvest week	Acreage by variety and year planted							
		1988 & before	1989—1993	1994—1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Red Haven</b>	4	420	285	295	15	56	27	10	22
<b>Bellaire</b>	4	11	39	44	3	3	13	1	1
<b>Newhaven</b>	4	44	33	8	1	4	0	0	0
<b>PF12A</b>	4	0	5	101	0	2	0	0	2
<b>PF15A</b>	4	0	3	63	3	10	0	1	0
	<b>Week sum</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Canadian Harmony</b>	5	37	58	36	1	12	1	2	3
<b>Glohaven</b>	5	33	31	21	6	11	0	1	2
<b>Loring</b>	5	44	27	24	3	1	2	3	1
<b>PF17</b>	5	0*	18	140	0	2	0	0	0
	<b>Week sum</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Coralstar</b>	6	0	6	16	18	32	3	6	6
<b>PF23</b>	6	0	35	83	4	15	3	7	3
	<b>Week sum</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Cresthaven</b>	7	19	41	14	1	9	1	0	0
<b>Glowingstar</b>	7	0	7	23	19	12	11	1	1
	<b>Week sum</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Redskin</b>	8	66	49	21	2	1	3	2	1
<b>Fayette</b>	9	12	8	31	1	0	1	8	0

\* relatively new varieties not on the table are for week 4 are Starfire 40 acres Blazingstar (14 acres), Redstar (26 acres), week 6 PF20-007 (7 acres), week 7 PF24-007 (46 acres), PF25 (11 acres), and week 9 PF27A (54 acres).

**Figure 1. Distribution of Michigan peach acreage by week of harvest starting in early July. see table 2.**





*Inside:*

- **Peach, plum, and early apple showcase 2004**
- **"Select a Taste of Michigan" program expands in 2004**
- **MDA Peach Crop Survey important to Michigan Growers**
- **Fruit façade**
- **Peach Marketing Dilemma**
- **Peach varieties on display**
- **New Poster and Pamphlet Feature Michigan Peaches**
- **Guidelines to Harvesting, Handling, and Storing**