

FACTSHEET



ORDER NO. 07-041

AUGUST 2007

AGDEX 212



Ontario

Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs

PEACH AND NECTARINE CULTIVARS

K. Slingerland and J. Subramanian

(Replaces OMAFRA Factsheet 02-033 *Peach and Nectarine Cultivars*)

INTRODUCTION

This Factsheet provides information that will guide commercial growers in selecting fruit cultivars to plant.

The term “cultivar,” used throughout this Factsheet, is a contraction of “cultivated variety,” replacing the older and confusing term “variety,” which also refers to recognizable types within a species that maintain their distinguishing characteristics in the wild state. A cultivar is any horticulturally recognized and named type or sort that can only be maintained through vegetative propagation or the use of selected breeding lines and seed sources.

RECOMMENDED PEACH AND NECTARINE CULTIVARS

Cultivars listed in Tables 1 and 2, right, are recommended for general, limited or trial planting. The “General Planting” list includes well-known cultivars with predictable performance and established market value. The “Limited Planting” list includes good cultivars that are not yet established or older cultivars of declining importance and cultivars that serve a restricted purpose (roadside market, climatic or soil condition, culinary use, etc.). Promising new cultivars that have not been extensively tested are recommended under “Trial Planting.”

Cultivar recommendations are grouped based on the cultivar response to different climatic areas and cropping history. Winter injury restricts production in the remainder of southern Ontario to the most protected sites and with the hardiest cultivars only. Within a column, cultivars are listed in their order of ripening, from earliest to latest.

Table 1. Recommended Peach Cultivars for Ontario

General Planting	Limited Planting	Trial Planting
Fresh Market – Yellow Flesh		
Harrow Diamond	Springcrest	Flamin Fury® PF-1
Garnet Beauty	Harrow Dawn™	Flamin Fury® PF-5B
Early Redhaven	Brighton	Risingstar™
Harson	Harken	Blazingstar™
Redhaven	Harbrite	Flamin Fury® PF-15A
Vivid	Veeglo	Redstar™
Harrow Beauty	Harrow Fair™	Starfire™
Loring	Vollie™	Jim Wilson
Cresthaven	Harcrest	Coralstar™
	Redskin	Bounty
		Allstar™
		Flamin Fury® PF-17
		Glowingstar™
		Flamin Fury® PF-23
		Flamin Fury® PF-24 007
		Flamin Fury® PF-25
		Flamin Fury® PF-27A
Fresh Market – White Flesh		
		White Lady
		Blushingstar™
Processing		
Vulcan	Veecling	
Vinegold	Babygold 5	
Virgil	Vitall™	
Catherina™		
Venture™		
Babygold 7		

Table 2. Recommended Nectarine Cultivars for Ontario

General Planting	Limited Planting	Trial Planting
Fresh Market – Yellow Flesh		
Harflame™	Flavortop	
Harblaze	Redgold	
Fantasia		

PEACH AND NECTARINE HARVEST DATES

Fresh Market Peaches

Table 3, *Average First Harvest Dates for Fresh Market Peach*, shows the average dates of the first commercial harvest of fresh market cultivars at the University of Guelph, Department of Plant Agriculture, Vineland. These dates are derived from observations over many seasons; actual harvest dates will vary from season to season and location to location. The harvest dates provide a guide for growers for selecting cultivars that ripen in sequence over the entire fruiting season and for shipper/dealers for marketing the fruit.

Table 3. Average First Harvest Dates for Fresh Market Peach

Cultivar	Date
Springcrest	July 25
Harrow Diamond	July 27
Flamin Fury® PF-5B	July 28
Risingstar™	Aug. 2
Gamet Beauty	Aug. 3
Early Redhaven	Aug. 5
Harrow Dawn™	Aug. 5
Brighton	Aug. 8
Harson	Aug. 16
Flamin Fury® PF-15A	Aug. 16
Redhaven	Aug. 16
Redstar™	Aug. 16
Starfire™	Aug. 17
Harken	Aug. 18
Blazingstar™	Aug. 19
Harbrite	Aug. 20
Vivid	Aug. 20
White Lady*	Aug. 21
Harrow Fair™	Aug. 23
Jim Wilson	Aug. 23
Veeglo	Aug. 24
Coralstar™	Aug. 29
Allstar™	Aug. 31
Bounty	Aug. 31
Harrow Beauty	Sept. 2
Loring	Sept. 2
Blushingstar*™	Sept. 4
Flamin Fury® PF-17	Sept. 4
Vollie™	Sept. 7
Flamin Fury® PF-23	Sept. 8
Cresthaven	Sept. 12
Flamin Fury® PF-24 007	Sept. 12
Glowingstar™	Sept. 13
Harcrest	Sept. 14
Redskin	Sept. 17
Flamin Fury® PF-25	Sept. 17
Flamin Fury® PF-27A	Sept. 19

*white flesh

Processing Peaches

Table 4, *Average First Harvest Dates for Processing Peach*, shows the average dates of the first commercial harvest of the processing cultivars at the University of Guelph, Department of Plant Agriculture, Vineland. These dates are derived from observations over many seasons; actual harvest dates will vary from season to season and location to location. The harvest dates provide a guide for growers for selecting cultivars that ripen in sequence over the entire fruiting season and for processors for receiving the fruit.

Table 4. Average First Harvest Dates for Processing Peach

Cultivar	Date
Vulcan	Aug. 6
Vinegold	Aug. 10
Virgil	Aug. 13
Veecling	Aug. 18
Catherina™	Aug. 25
Babygold 5	Sept. 4
Venture™	Sept. 6
Babygold 7	Sept. 13
Vital™	Sept. 18

Nectarines

Table 5, *Average First Harvest Dates for Nectarine*, shows the average dates of the first commercial harvest of the fresh market nectarine cultivars at the University of Guelph, Department of Plant Agriculture, Vineland. These dates are derived from observations over many seasons; actual harvest dates will vary from season to season and location to location. The harvest dates provide a guide for growers for selecting cultivars that ripen in sequence over the entire fruiting season and for shippers/dealers for marketing the fruit.

Table 5. Average First Harvest Dates for Nectarine

Cultivar	Date
Harflame™	Aug. 16
Harblaze	Aug. 17
Flavortop	Sept. 9
Redgold	Sept. 9
Fantasia	Sept. 14

PEACH AND NECTARINE POLLINATION

All recommended peach and nectarine cultivars are self-fruitful. There is neither a need to interplant cultivars to improve fruitfulness nor to add bee colonies to the orchard to improve fruit-set.

Following best management practices helps ensure the development of healthy trees that produce numerous, strong blossoms. Examples of best management practices are soil and air drainage (especially at bloom time), satisfactory soil fertility levels, appropriate pruning and integrated pest management (IPM) programs.

PEACH AND NECTARINE CULTIVAR DESCRIPTIONS

These brief notes on peach and nectarine cultivars include only comparative characteristics needed for decision making. Special qualities or limitations are presented but, unless otherwise noted, the cultivar is commercially satisfactory in such characteristics as tree growth, hardiness, cropping ability, fruit size, appearance and quality. The descriptions are primarily based on tree performance at the University of Guelph, Department of Plant Agriculture, Vineland. They apply to Ontario conditions only; performance elsewhere may be substantially different.

Peaches and nectarines are among the most sensitive of the tender fruits to winter injury. They are suited only to the mildest climates in Ontario. Care must be taken when selecting the orchard site. The root systems of the trees require a well-drained soil to achieve orchard productivity and longevity.

Peach, Named Cultivars *Fresh Market (Yellow Flesh)*

Allstar™ Matures 2 days prior to Harrow Beauty and is a medium-sized, bright red fruit with clear yellow flesh. The fruit is medium firm with fair quality. The fruit and the tree have shown signs of bacterial spot.

Blazingstar™ Matures 3 days after Redhaven. Highly coloured, round and attractive, firm-fleshed peach. Size and fruit quality are acceptable. The fruit and the tree are susceptible to bacterial spot.

Bounty New cultivar from USDA-Kearneysville, West Virginia, ripening 2 days before Loring. It has more colour compared to Loring, is rounder in shape and has better flavour. Bounty has had light crops under extreme cold winter conditions in Ontario.

Brighton Has shown promise as an early-ripening peach. The fruit are medium in size, attractive red in colour and of good quality, but have a clingy flesh. Brighton ripens 5 days after Garnet Beauty.

Coralstar™ Matures 4 days prior to Harrow Beauty and is medium to large in size, bright red and has clear yellow flesh. The fruit is medium firm with only fair-to-poor quality. The fruit and the tree are susceptible to bacterial spot.

Cresthaven Ripens 10 days after Harrow Beauty with firm, large fruit. It is moderately susceptible to bacterial spot. The fruit lacks sufficient colour to compete against other cultivars.

Early Redhaven This Redhaven sport ripens 2 days after Garnet Beauty, but with similar characteristics. The

fruit may be more highly coloured and smaller, and the firmer flesh tends to be clingy. Early Redhaven has been widely planted during recent years.

Flamin Fury® PF-5B Early results from a grower CanAdapt trial indicate that it ripens 1 day after Harrow Diamond and is medium sized with good crops. The fruit has an attractive red blush with few split-pits and medium-to-good tolerance to bacterial spot.

Flamin Fury® PF-15A Early results from a grower CanAdapt trial indicate that it ripens 1 day before Redhaven and is medium sized with good crops. The fruit has an attractive red blush with very few split-pits. It has medium to good tolerance to bacterial spot.

Flamin Fury® PF-17 Ripens 2 days after Harrow Beauty and is medium sized with good crops. The fruit has a dark red, highly coloured blush with good quality. It has good tolerance to bacterial spot.

Flamin Fury® PF-23 Ripens 6 days after Harrow Beauty and is medium sized with good crops. The fruit has a scarlet red, highly coloured blush with good quality. It has fair-to-good tolerance to bacterial spot.

Flamin Fury® PF-24 007 Early results from a grower CanAdapt trial indicate that it ripens 10 days after Harrow Beauty and is large sized with good crops. The fruit has a fair colour and blush with good quality. It has medium-to-good tolerance to bacterial spot.

Garnet Beauty This bud sport of Redhaven ranks second in number of trees to its parent in Ontario. Garnet Beauty is a good-quality peach, ripening about a week after Harrow Diamond. It is attractive, usually not subject to split-pits, but not fully freestone.

Glowingstar™ Ripens 11 days after Harrow Beauty and has medium-to-large-sized fruit with good crops. The fruit has a bright red colour with good blush and quality. It has good tolerance to bacterial spot.

Harbrite Ripens 4 days after Redhaven. It is bud-hardy and a good peach for its season. Fruit is medium to large, round, with an attractive red colour. The fruit are resistant to bacterial spot and brown rot.

Harcrest Ripens just before Redskin and promises to be a late-season cultivar with good disease resistance. The fruit of Harcrest are medium large, quite firm, good quality, and have good winter hardiness and disease resistance but no better blush than other cultivars in this late season.

Harken Ripens 2 days after Redhaven. The large, attractive peach has a good red colour covering most of its surface and a bright yellow ground-colour. The flesh is firm and of good quality. Because it oxidizes slowly, Harken freezes well. Resistance to bacterial spot and brown rot is good.

Harrow Beauty Ripens with Loring and Canadian Harmony but is more winter-hardy. The very firm, highly attractive, medium-sized fruit ships well. The rich yellow flesh has a red pigment around the pit cavity. Leaves and fruit have good resistance to bacterial spot and brown rot.

Harrow DawnTM (PBR 0573 formerly HW 254) This new AAFC-Harrow introduction ripens 11 days before Redhaven. Tree is hardier than Redhaven, vigorous, productive, and medium-to-high field resistance to bacterial spot, brown rot and canker. Fruit is very attractive, bright red blush on a yellow background, uniform ripening, medium size, firm yellow flesh, usually freestone when ripe, medium-to-good quality, very few split-pits.

Harrow Diamond Ripens about 1 week before Garnet Beauty. It is winter hardy, disease resistant and has few split-pits. The fruit have an attractive red blush over a bright yellow background; the deep yellow, low-oxidizing flesh is of good quality and is nearly freestone when fully matured. Because the fruit is small-to-medium sized, this cultivar must be thinned early and adequately to obtain suitable size.

Harrow FairTM (PBR 0574 formerly HW 259) This new AAFC-Harrow introduction is harvested a week before Harrow Beauty. The medium-to-large, round fruits are brightly coloured, juicy and flavourful. The trees have good disease resistance. A good variety to precede Harrow Beauty.

Harson Ripens with Redhaven. The highly coloured, attractive medium-to-large-sized fruit are nearly freestone, firm and of good quality. The crop is uniform and packs out very well. The strong and productive trees have above-average field resistance to bacterial spot, brown rot and *Leucostoma* canker diseases.

Jim Wilson Ripens 1 day before Veeglo at Vineland and may provide a good alternative for that season. The large, round fruit are attractive, and the firm flesh is freestone. The vigorous, strong trees are capable of sizing the fruit with full crops. The cultivar is more resistant to bacterial spot than Veeglo.

Loring This late-season peach is large, firm, yellow-fleshed, freestone and known for its good quality.

Loring lacks winter hardiness and should not be planted on marginal sites. Once an industry standard, it now lacks sufficient red skin colour to compete with newer cultivars.

RedstarTM Ripens with Redhaven and is medium sized with good crops. The fruit has a scarlet-orange colour with good blush, fair quality and few split-pits. It has good tolerance to bacterial spot.

Redhaven This older mid-season peach is an attractive red colour with good fruit quality. Trees frequently set heavy crops and must be adequately thinned to attain size. The crop ripens unevenly, and trees must be harvested several times. When well grown and properly handled, Redhaven is a superior cultivar with good winter hardiness.

Redskin A medium-sized, good-quality, late-ripening freestone with fairly good colour. Trees tend to be somewhat willowy but are very productive.

RisingstarTM Ripens 1 day before Garnet Beauty and has medium fruit size with fair-to-good crops. It has an orange-red colour with good blush, fair-to-good quality and few split-pits. It has good tolerance to bacterial spot.

Springcrest Ripens 2 days prior to Harrow Diamond and is considered an early peach for the local fruit stands and fruit markets. Fruit size is small and has several early split-pit fruit. Skin can be very deep purple as it matures. This cultivar is also winter sensitive.

StarfireTM Ripens 1 day after Redhaven and has medium fruit with good crops. It has scarlet orange-red blush with good fruit quality and few split-pits. It has good tolerance to bacterial spot.

Veeglo A cultivar between Redhaven and Loring. The round fruit have a bright yellow undercolour and are suitable for freezing and canning. Veeglo is only moderately resistant to bacterial spot.

Vivid Has bright red, attractive, firm fruit that are above average in size and of good quality. The trees are vigorous and productive. Vivid has become an important cultivar to follow Redhaven. It is less winter hardy than Redhaven. Do not plant on marginal sites.

Vollie NEW (formerly V55061) A late-season cultivar between Loring and Cresthaven seasons with medium-large, attractive red fruits. The fruits have a very good flavour and nice melting flesh. The trees have moderate-to-good disease resistance. This variety consistently crops well.

Nectarine, Named Cultivars

While nectarine and peach trees are of the same species and the same in appearance, nectarine fruit, which can be yellow or white fleshed, have smooth skin, a distinctive flavour and texture, and are usually smaller. The fruits tend to be more susceptible to aphid damage and brown rot disease. Cultivars may be described as clingstone, freestone or intermediate. Nectarines must be carefully thinned to attain marketable size. Since the trees and fruit buds tend to be less winter hardy than peach, take care to select a good site for nectarine orchards.

Fantasia Ripens late in the season with Cresthaven peach. The fruit are medium-to-large, attractive, bright red with a yellow ground-colour, freestone and firm-fleshed. The trees are moderately hardy and moderately resistant to bacterial spot. Fantasia is the main commercial nectarine in the Niagara Peninsula.

Flavortop Ripens just after Loring. Fruits are large, ovate and freestone with excellent quality. Skin is highly blushed over an attractive under-colour. Flesh is yellow, firm and smooth textured. Trees are vigorous but produce light crops and are tender to winter cold. Fruit are also susceptible to bacterial spot.

Harblaze This cultivar has promise as a commercial-type nectarine that ripens during the late Redhaven season. The vigorous, productive trees bear attractive medium-to-large-sized fruit that are semi-freestone. The fruit tends to soften quickly near maturity during final swell. Harblaze is relatively winter hardy and has a good level of resistance to bacterial spot, brown rot and powdery mildew.

HarflameTM Ripens 1 day before Harblaze. Tree is as hardy as Redhaven, medium vigour, somewhat upright and moderately productive. It has good field resistance to bacterial spot, brown rot and canker. The fruit is attractive, medium size with 80% blush on yellow background. It is semi-freestone, ripens uniformly with a medium-firm yellow flesh, medium quality and a low incidence of split-pits.

Redgold A late maturing nectarine. The fruit is freestone with a rich red blush over a yellow ground colour. Flesh is yellow with red around the pit and has the ability to hold firmness, making it an excellent storage and shipping nectarine. Trees are vigorous but produce light crops and are tender to winter cold. Fruit are also susceptible to bacterial spot and mildew.

The following nectarine cultivars have been dropped because they are no longer considered important:

Hardired	Harko	Nectared #1
Nectared #4	Nectared #6	

PEACH AND NECTARINE ROOTSTOCK DESCRIPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In previous years, seedlings used by nurseries often came from processing plants. Rootstocks such as Lovell, Elberta and Halford were found to be compatible with most cultivars and produced a good root system and strong trees. Today the industry is more dependent on seed from cultivars developed specifically for use as rootstocks, such as Bailey.

Peach seedlings are still considered the standard and most satisfactory rootstock for peach cultivars when grown on a light, well-drained, sandy loam soil. Clonal rootstocks that are vegetatively propagated are presently unsatisfactory for use in Ontario.

Seedling Rootstocks — Peach (*Prunus persica*)

Bailey is considered to be one of the best rootstocks currently available and is recommended for peaches in Ontario. It is an old peach cultivar released from West Branch, Iowa, and is a very hardy peach that produces small, white-fleshed, freestone fruits having no commercial culinary value. Pits germinate readily, and scion cultivars budded on to Bailey seedlings develop into uniform trees that are medium-to-large in size.

Bailey propagates easily, is compatible with recommended scions, productive and tolerant to cold winter temperatures. This rootstock has been reported to confer some degree of cold hardiness on some scion cultivars. In addition, tree survival on this rootstock has been good after severe winters. Bailey seedlings in the nursery are susceptible to powdery mildew under moist conditions where air movement is poor.

Chui Lum Tao (CLT) Very cold-hardy, moderately vigorous, are easy to stratify and give consistent high germination percentage. As nursery seedlings, they are quite uniform in height, stem diameter and growth habit being similar in vigour to Bailey. Seedlings are much more resistant to powdery mildew than Bailey. CLT tends to have a shorter budding season than Bailey. Root systems are more vigorous and hardier than those of Bailey.

Lovell Although not normally used in Ontario, it has proved to be a very dependable standard rootstock and is still used today by many nurseries in the Southern and Eastern United States. It is widely compatible with commercial cultivars. It is not as winter-hardy as Bailey and not resistant to nematodes.

Tzim Pee Tao (TPT) A very cold-hardy, moderately vigorous rootstock that is easy to stratify and gives consistent high germination percentage. As nursery

seedlings, they are quite uniform in height, stem diameter and growth habit being similar in vigour to Bailey. Seedlings are much more resistant to powdery mildew than Bailey. TPT tends to have a shorter budding season than Bailey. Root systems are more vigorous and hardier than those of Bailey.

The following nectarine cultivars have been dropped because they are no longer considered important:

Halford Siberian “C”

Other Prunus Seedling Rootstocks

American plum (*Prunus americana*), Nanking Cherry (*Prunus tomentosa*) and Western Sand Cherry (*Prunus besseyi*) seedlings are all unsatisfactory as peach rootstocks because of poor anchorage, suckering and incompatibility problems.

Clonal Rootstocks

Brompton A clonal European plum (*Prunus domestica*) propagated vegetatively by hard wood cuttings. It has had limited use as a rootstock for peach and is generally restricted to replacement pockets of trees in imperfectly drained soils. Several clonal rootstocks are under investigation but require further research before recommendations can be made for Ontario.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on peach and nectarine cultivars, as well as other tender fruits, visit the *Tender Fruit Photo Gallery* found on the OMAFRA website at ontario.ca/crops.

Recommendations for planting cultivars and adapted areas within the province have been determined by the University of Guelph, Department of Plant Agriculture, Vineland; Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC); and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). Valuable assistance was provided in consultation with growers, shipper/dealers, nurseries, processors and the Ontario Tender Fruit Producers' Marketing Board (OTFPMB).

This Factsheet was compiled and edited by Ken Slingerland, OMAFRA, Vineland, and Dr. Jayasankar Subramanian, Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph, Vineland. The authors gratefully acknowledge the following individuals and associations for their written contributions and/or for their assistance in reviewing this Factsheet: Dr. Neil Miles, Bill Lay and Glen Alm, University of Guelph Department of Plant Agriculture; CanGro, Mori Nurseries and Adrian Huisman, Ontario Tender Fruit Producers' Marketing Board.

Agricultural Information Contact Centre
1-877-424-1300
ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca

www.ontario.ca/omafra

POD
ISSN 1198-712X
Également disponible en français
(commande n° 07-042)

