

## PERFORMANCE OF FLORDAWON PEACH AT HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

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In a previous report on performance of peach selections at the Sub-Tropical Experiment Station (1), the Flordawon variety was unintentionally omitted. This variety was selected and described by R. H. Sharpe (2) for cultivation in Central Florida. At the time of release, its chilling requirement was estimated to be 250 hours of temperature below 45 F, but a more recent publication gives the chilling requirement as 200 hours (3).

Although the Homestead area experiences only 50 to 150 hours of temperatures below 45 F each year, it was thought worthwhile to test the adaptability of the Flordawon peach in this area.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Two trees of Florawon peach on Okinawa rootstock were planted at the Sub-Tropical Experiment Station in 1961 and two trees on Nema-guard rootstock were planted in 1962. Regular observations were made on their vegetative growth, flowering and fruiting.

Vegetative growth was fair, although the

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trees did not leaf out quite as early in the spring as varieties, such a Red Ceylon, which are well adapted to this area.

The trees bloomed in February or March each year, but the bloom was sparse. In most years, only two or three fruits set and developed to maturity on each tree. In one year, 1964 there was no fruit at all.

It is concluded that the Florawon peach cannot be grown successfully at Homestead, Florida because there is insufficient low temperature during the winter to satisfy its chilling requirement.

### SUMMARY

Grafted trees of Flordawon peach were grown at Homestead, Florida from 1961 through 1966. Vegetative growth was fair. Flowering and fruiting were very poor because there is insufficient low temperature during the winter to satisfy the chilling requirement of this variety (200 hours).

### LITERATURE CITED

1. Campbell, C. W. 1965. Performance of peach selections at Homestead, Florida. Proc. Fla. State Hort. Soc. 78: 324-327.
2. Sharpe, R. H. 1961. Flordawon, a peach for Central Florida. Fla. Agr. Exp. Sta. Circ. S-126.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ . 1966. Peaches and nectarines in Florida. Fla. Agr. Exp. Sta. Circ. 299: 13.

## PERSIMMON VARIETY AND ROOTSTOCK OBSERVATIONS

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### ABSTRACT

Ten non-astringent and 13 astringent varieties of oriental persimmons, most of them new to Florida, were tested. Equal numbers of trees were established on *Diospyros kaki* and *D. virginiana* stocks. Yields, freeze injury and performance of varieties and rootstocks are reported for a 10 year period.

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### INTRODUCTION

The oriental persimmon, *Diospyros kaki* was established in Florida about 1870. Camp and Mowry (1) listed and described 16 varieties being grown in Florida in 1945. The only light fleshed, non-astringent variety discussed was 'Fuyu' or 'Fuyugaki.' Three U.S.D.A. plant introductions under this name were 26491, 32868 and 26773, with the latter thought to be the most widely distributed. 'Fuyu' and 'Tanenashi,' an astringent type, are the most popular kinds now grown in Florida. Since several other non-astringent varieties were available, an effort was made to introduce and test these and a few astringent types under Florida conditions.