



INNOVATION AND MODERN TRENDS IN FRUIT PRODUCTION



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Peach

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Introduction

Peaches have been cultivated from early times mainly for its fruit. It is native to China from where it spread to Northern and Southern hemispheres. The scientific name for peach is *Prunus persica*. Peaches originated in China. *Amygdalus mira* (sometimes known as *Prunus mira*) is a wild peach found in the cold and arid parts of the Tibetan plateau, India, Bhutan, and Nepal. Behmi is known in India for its smooth stone. Behmi is utilized as a rootstock for peach and almond trees in Himachal Pradesh. Other wild species of peach include *P. davidiana*, *P. ferganensis*, and *P. kansuensis*. Nectarines are smooth-skin (fuzzless) peach mutants closely allied to peach. Peaches are an important fruit crop of temperate regions and grows well at foot hills at an elevation of 600-700 m above sea level. It comes to the market early in the season; particularly the low chilling peaches and growers get remunerative prices due to non-availability of other fresh fruits in the market. Peaches are mostly cultivated in temperate zones, with commercial production limited to 30-40° N and S. However, they are being produced globally. Italy, USA, Spain, China, France, Greece, and Japan are the top peach-producing countries. Peaches are commercially farmed in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Uttarakhand, with small production in the north-eastern provinces. Peaches are cultivated commercially in Rajgarh, District Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh, commonly known as the "Peach Bowl of India". Low chill types of peaches are commercially farmed in Punjab, Haryana, and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. In