



# Low chill stone fruit varieties 2005



**Agnote DPI-479, third edition, March 2005**  
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## INTRODUCTION

Low chill stone fruit are peaches, nectarines and plums bred for subtropical areas where very low winter chilling is experienced. They are the first stone fruit sold on the Australian markets – from September to November, with the peak month being October.

The low chill stone fruit industry is based in Southern Queensland, Northern NSW and the Sydney Basin.

A variety evaluation trial site was established at Bangalow in 1999, funded by Low Chill Australia, Horticulture Australia Ltd and NSW Agriculture. Over 600 varieties have been evaluated.

This agnote reports on the best performing selections for 2004.

## ROOTSTOCKS

All tested varieties were grown on Okinawa and Nemasun (coastal peach) rootstocks. Okinawa rootstock sometimes produced fruit at the same time as Nemasun but was never more advanced. Nemasun rootstock can advance harvest by 1–2 weeks. Okinawa is more vigorous and requires heavy watershoot removal.

## VARIETIES

A number of public varieties of both peaches and nectarines are industry standards and are widely grown. These are:

- Flordaprince peach
- Tropic Beauty peach

## New low chill stone fruit selections and maturity dates

Varieties	September				October				November			
	wk 1	wk 2	wk 3	wk 4	wk 1	wk 2	wk 3	wk 4	wk 1	wk 2	wk 3	wk 4
<b>Peaches</b>												
Flordaprince												
Tropic Beauty												
UF Gold												
UF Beauty(98–1c)												
MRS 17–20c												
Fla 97–42c												
UF Charm												
UF Delight												
<b>Nectarines</b>												
SunWright												
Sunraycer												
Sunblaze												
94–7nw												
MRS21–8c												
MRS11–11NWc												
MRS22–50NWc												
UF Queen												
Sunsnow												
<b>Plum</b>												
Gulf Ruby												
97–2PI B												

Key: ■ Standards ■ New selections

- SunWright nectarine
- Sunraycer nectarine
- Sunblaze nectarine.

## **MOST PROMISING NEW SELECTIONS**

The Bangalow site has a chill range of 250–500 chill units. All varieties listed below performed well in this chill range.

### **Peaches**

UF Gold  
 UF Beauty (98-1c Grower club variety)  
 MRS 17-20c  
 Fla 97-42c (very low chill sites)  
 UF Charm  
 UF Delight

### **Nectarines**

94-7nw  
 MRS 21-8c  
 MRS 11-11 NWc  
 MRS 22-50 NWc  
 Sunsnow  
 UF Queen

### **Plums**

97-2Pl B

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

A full report on all varieties in the evaluation project will shortly be available. For further details, contact the author by phone on 6626 2450 or by email at [phillip.wilk@agric.nsw.gov.au](mailto:phillip.wilk@agric.nsw.gov.au)

The AgriLink Series 'Low Chill Stone Fruit Information Kit' provides further information on all aspects of varietal selection and managing low chill stone fruit. It is available from Queensland Department of Primary Industries, PO Box 5969, Sunshine Coast Mail Centre, Nambour QLD 4560.

### **DISCLAIMER**

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (March 2005). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of New South Wales Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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 NSW Department of Primary Industries  
 Agdex 214/32