University of Florida
Stone fruit Breeding program

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Primary Objectives

- Support existing peach growers by providing new improved peach cultivars.
- Promote the development of a subtropical peach industry in Florida by breeding low chill early ripening cultivars.
Stonefruit Breeding Efforts

- **UF Gainesville**: 150-450 cu peaches for central Florida
- **UG-USDA-UFS**: 450-650 cu peaches for north Florida and southern coastal plain.
Climatic, biological, and economic constraints defining the production window for Florida peaches

February 1    March 1    April 1    June 1

Spring Frosts  Fruit Quality  Seed Viability

Price  Summer Rains

Fruit Imports
Breeding Objectives

• Fruit Quality
• Early Ripening
• Adaptation
Fruit Quality

- Brix >11% SS
- Moderate Acidity
- Firmness (non-melting flesh)
- Color
- Shape and Size
Adaptation
Breeding for adaptation generates cultivars that produce consistent crops. This includes appropriate chilling requirement and the ability to set under warm temperatures.

Figure 1.
Map shows hours below 45 degrees received to February 10 in 75% of winters.
Cultivars adapted to North Central Florida.
Nectarines: ‘Sunbest’, ‘UFQueen’, ‘UFRoyal’

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