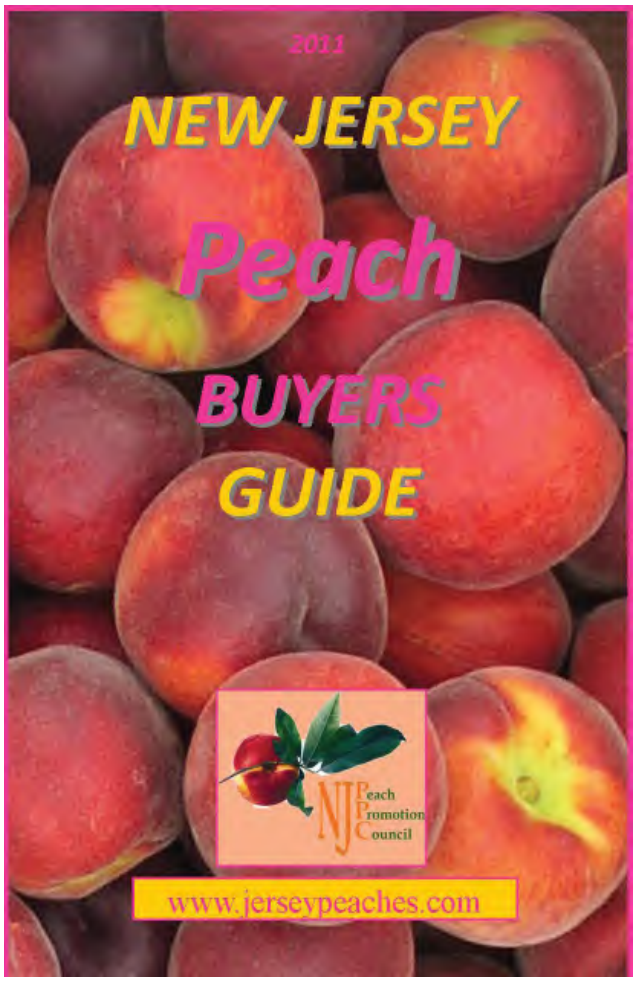
New Jersey News

2011 Peach Buyers, A Source for Peach Information Now Available

The 2011 edition of the *Peach Buyers Guide* is now available from the New Jersey Peach Promotion Council and the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. According to Rutgers Agricultural Agent, Jerry Frecon, author of the guide, "this year's guide is 72 pages with information for prospective wholesale buyers on where and how to buy and handle New Jersey peaches and nectarines." "The guide lists in alphabetical order all "Peach Council" member growers and shippers of New Jersey peaches, including their brands and general information on what and how they ship," said Mr. Frecon. This section has been completely updated for easier use and placement on the regularly updated web site at www.jerseypeaches.com. New pages also list peach grower retailers and New Jersey famers markets of New Jersey Peaches.



Over the years the guide has been an important source of information for the media because it provides details and statistics on the peach industry. Color pictures of some of the most important new varieties are highlighted along with details on when they are available for buyers. A multi-color availability chart explains this in detail.

A new sections on food safety on peach farms has been included. This sections describes food safety practices on peach farms.

Information is included on the Jersey Fresh Promotional program for peaches and the Quality-Grading program run by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. Details on officers and directors of the New Jersey Peach Promotion Council are listed along with an outline of plans for the 2011 promotional program on peaches.

For merchandisers, the guide contains information on how to store and handle New Jersey peaches. The opening page of the guide explains why everyone should buy New Jersey Peaches. Buying New Jersey peaches helps to preserve peach farms and open space in the Garden State.

The guide is available by contacting Jerry Frecon, Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station or emailing info@jerseypeaches.com or by writing the New Jersey Peach Promotion Council at 1200 North Delsea Drive, Bldg A, Clayton, N.J. 08312. Major portions of the guide are also featured on the New Jersey Peach Promotion Council website at www.jerseypeaches.com. Information is also contained on Facebook for the NJ Peach Promotion Council.

Allende Sworn in to Seat on State Board of Agriculture

Lynne Richmond
New Jersey Department of Agriculture

(TRENTON) – South Jersey peach farmer, Francisco J. Allende, was sworn in to a seat on the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture during a board meeting at Dorsett Farm in Woolwich Township May 25.

Allende was selected for the position by the delegates attending the February 2010 New Jersey State Agriculture Convention. He was then nominated by Governor Chris Christie and approved by the state Senate. His term on the board will expire in 2014.

"Francisco Allende brings a wealth of experience and a unique perspective to the State Board of Agriculture," said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher. "His experience and expertise will be great assets as the Board tackles issues that will impact the future of the agriculture industry."

Allende is co-manager and co-owner of Gala farms in Salem and Cumberland Counties, with more than 200 acres of peaches planted. He is General Manager and co-owner of Sunny Valley Int., Inc., a Glassboro fresh fruits and vegetables distributor, as well as co-manager and co-owner of Eastern Propak, a Glassboro storage and packing facility.

"At this time my main goal is to learn as much as possible and broaden my knowledge and understanding of New Jersey Agriculture as a whole," said Allende.

Allende is a director and past chairman of the New Jersey Peach Promotion Council, a director on the New Jersey Blueberry Growers Industry Advisory Council, and a Board member of the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council.

Allende has a degree in commercial engineering from the University of Santiago in Chile. He currently resides in Moorestown.

The State Board of Agriculture, comprising eight members, is the policy-making body of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. Its members serve for four years, with two members being replaced each year. By law, at least four of its members must represent the top commodity groups in the state. Members serve without salary, but may be reimbursed for expenses. For more information, visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/about/sba.

Thomas F. Gant, Jr., Retired Fruit Grower, Passes

Thomas F. Gant, Jr., 77, of Elk Township, New Jersey, passed away on Sunday, June 19, 2011, at his home with his family by his side.

Born in Woodbury, he has been a resident of Elk Township since 1937. He was a self-employed farmer and owner of the Tuck-A-Lou Orchards. Tom has been a member of Hardingville Bible Church since 1937 and a member of the Antlers 20 Deer Club since 1947. He was also a member of Mullica Hill Grange, Pomona Grange, and the State Grange, where he served as Deputy for the Southern District. Tom was a former 4-H Leader and a member of the New Jersey Farm Bureau and served as State Treasurer for the New Jersey Direct Marketers. He spent 14 years on the Elk Township School Board and served over 50 years on the Elk Township Board of Elections.

Tom is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary L. Gant, nee Cliff; 3 daughters, Mary Louise Lucas (George), Laurene Reuter, Rebecca Stimpson (Bryan); 2 sons, Thomas F. III (Kim) and Douglas E. (Kristie); his son-in-law, Philip Reuter; 15 grandchildren, Lacey, Corey, and Nathan Lucas, Kimberly Gant, "A.J." and William Reuter, Alisha, Doug, Jr., Derek, Drew, Drexel and Avalon Gant and Bryan III, Courtney and Brianna Stimpson; and 4 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at the Hardingville Bible Church in Monroeville. Burial was at the church cemetery. Contributions in Thomas' name may be made to Hardingville Bible Church, Whig Lane Road, Monroeville, NJ 08343.

Horticultural News

New Jersey State Horticultural Society
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