


Spanish researchers have developed five early season peaches and nectarines as part of a breeding program in the region of Murcia, focusing on organoleptic quality and disease resistance. 

The Murcia Research and Agriculture and Food Development Institute (IMIDA), in conjunction with company Novamed, has registered two yellow peaches and one red peach.

A Murcia Regional Government said two nectarines, under the cultivars of 'Platerina' and 'Paraguay', were registered last year.

"These new varieties are already being used by farmers," the release said.

IMIDA director Adrián Martínez said the first tests began in 2005, and four years later the contract to develop intervarietal crosses was signed with Novamed, a limited partnership that unites major fruit growers in the region.

"Enhancing the flavor, in addition to quality, is an essential objective if you want to conquer the palates of consumers," Martínez said.

"Early production is something we can get thanks to the climatic conditions of the region, and with that we can obtain better prices in the market."

Researchers José Cos and Antonio Carrillo said developing a new variety could take 8-10 years of work, highlighting that the institute had evaluated close to 17,000 units since the program started.

Photo: IMIDA

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