



**CONTACT:**

Pegi Adam, 973-744-6090 [pegi@mountsnow.org](mailto:pegi@mountsnow.org)

Jerome Frecon, 856-307-6450 [frecon@rcrc.rutgers.edu](mailto:frecon@rcrc.rutgers.edu)

**FACTS : NEW JERSEY PEACH INDUSTRY**

**NEW JERSEY PEACH PROMOTION COUNCIL**

*'Dedicated to the orderly marketing and promotion of New Jersey peaches'*

- New Jersey ranks 4<sup>th</sup> nationally for peach production, after California, South Carolina & Georgia.
- 100% of New Jersey's peach crop is sold to the fresh market via supermarkets, farm markets, specialty produce stores, U-pick operations, community farmers markets. Processing companies ship all over the eastern US (east of the Mississippi) and eastern Canada.
- New Jersey peaches are all picked by hand.
- New Jersey's average peach production: 60 – 65 million pounds/30,000 – 32,500 tons\*.
- Average total wholesale production value of New Jersey peaches is \$30-35-million\* (figures above from USDA statistics service)

<b>New Jersey's fresh peach season</b>	Mid/late July through September
<b>Varieties of New Jersey peaches</b>	<p><b>100+ varieties</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Yellow flesh comprise 90% of Jersey peaches</li> <li>•White flesh comprise 4% of Jersey peaches</li> <li>•Yellow and white flesh nectarines comprise 6%</li> <li>•Something new Doughnut or flat peaches less than 1%</li> </ul>
<b>Products from peaches</b>	Fresh freestone peaches also yield peach cider, peach syrup, peach jam
<b>Total acreage in New Jersey peach orchards</b>	more than 7,000 acres. (total acres in NJ: 4.75 million acres)
<b>Number NJ peach orchards</b>	90 orchards
<b>Where the orchards are</b>	Peach orchards are throughout New Jersey. Largest growing parcels are located in the southern region. Top production counties are Gloucester, Cumberland, Camden, Burlington, Atlantic and Salem.
<b>Pick your own orchards</b>	25
<b>New Jersey Peach Promotion Council</b>	The New Jersey Peach Promotional Council is the state's independent, primary organization of peach growers, shippers, wholesalers, and associated industries.
<b>Brief history of New Jersey peach industry</b>	<p>Peaches originated in China, brought to the New World by the Spanish in about 1500's. New Jersey was one of the first colonies to cultivate peaches, in the 1600's.</p> <p>In 1900, there were more than four million peach trees within Hunterdon County alone. Scale wiped out the industry in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>Today, New Jersey has less than two million peach trees, but is recovering nicely. Our soils and climate are ideal for producing good texture &amp; flavor.</p>

