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Variability, heritability and correlations of some factors affecting productivity in peach

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Factors affecting productivity in peach, such as flower density, initial and final fruit set by open pollination, and yield per m length of shoot were studied in 40 cultivars during a three-year period. Significant differences among cultivars were found for all studied properties. The coefficients of variability were the lowest for initial fruit set and then for final fruit set and flower density; while they were the highest for yield. The relatively high values of heritability were found for flower density and yield. Significant correlation coefficients were found between initial and final fruit set, flower density and yield, as well as between final fruit set and yield. In areas with a higher risk of freeze damage the cultivars characterized by higher flower density and fruit set should be grown because they can provide more consistent yield potential. At the same time, these cultivars require more intensive pruning and fruit thinning to achieve quality fruit.

Keywords:

Prunus persica; flower density; fruit set; yield

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