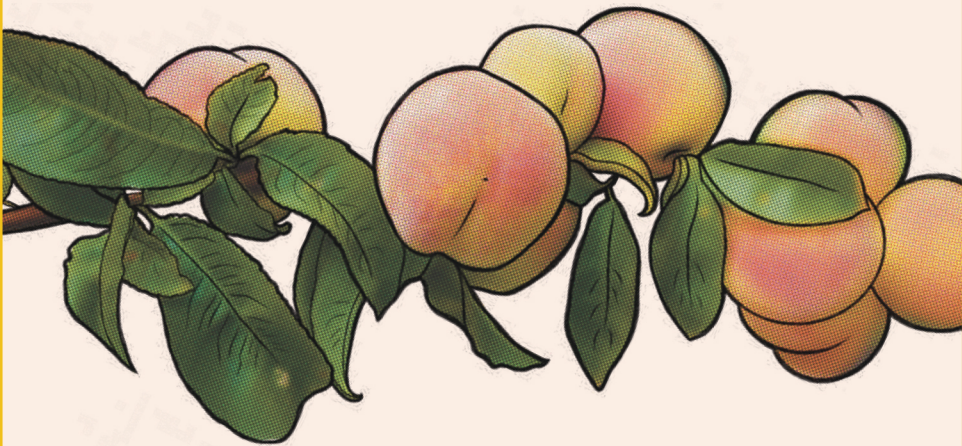


Spotting the Southwest Peach

Southwest peaches once thrived across the southwest US in orchards tended by Navajo, Hopi, Zuni and other tribes. Today, efforts are underway to bring back this traditional fruit cultivation, and reviving Southwest peach orchards can reconnect Native communities with traditional practices and support local sustainability. These drought- and pest-resistant peaches are also valuable to the community as climate change intensifies.

And you can help! Scientists and Native community members are looking for Southwest peach trees that may be growing in the southwest. Use this guide to help you find out if you've seen a Southwest peach tree, and how to document your findings and send your data to researchers!



Reminder: Follow local laws while you're on the lookout for Southwest peach trees! Do not trespass on private property or Native land, and do not take fruits, seeds or leaves with you. **Leave No Trace!**



pointed tip leaves

center stamen

HOW TO ID SOUTHWEST PEACH TREES:

- 10-20 foot tall trees with open, airy canopies
- Reddish bark on young trees, gray bark on mature trees
- Long, narrow and smooth leaves with a pointed tip
- Fine, evenly-sized, toothed leaf edges
- In spring: Soft, light pink flowers with five petals and center cluster of stamen

If you see a small, stout, peach-like fruit, jackpot! You've likely found a Southwest peach. (If you're invited to taste, you might find the fruit more bitter than a typical peach and ranging in taste from melon to cinnamon-y and more.)

pink flowers

toothed leaf edges

#1: DETECT

Are you in the southwest? This is the historic range of the Southwest peach, especially the Four Corners of Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. Look for areas where water might runoff from mesa tops, or natural waterways like springs and rivers.

#2: DOCUMENT

Take a few photos! When in doubt, more photos are better. Snap photos of the whole tree, its surroundings, a close-up on the leaves and any flowers or fruit.

Note down the date and time when you saw the tree. Use your GPS to indicate your exact location, or make sure your photos are collecting metadata (background information that can help understand where and when you took the photo).

#3: DISPATCH

Send your data to researchers! Scan the QR code to send your findings to Reagan Wytsalucy, Extension Assistant Professor at Utah State University. You can also email her at reagan.wytsalucy@usu.edu or mail your findings to P.O. Box 549, Monticello, UT 84535.

