

History of Peaches

Did you know that peaches are not originally from southern soil? Their original homeland was China, with peaches reaching Mexico sometime during the 1600's. Eventually, the Spanish brought peaches to the coast of Florida and they eventually spread throughout the nation. In the 19th century, peach farming became a commercial endeavor and started transforming the peach industry. Small farms gave way to the vast peach orchards you see today.

Fort Valley, Georgia became a major hub for the peach industry in the latter part of the 19th century because of its mild climate and rich, red clay soil. From 1922 to 1926, Fort Valley held an annual Peach Blossom Festival which attracted up to 40,000 visitors each March. Then, in 1986, the town hosted the first annual [Georgia Peach Festival](#) to promote Peach County and celebrate the thriving peach industry and its contribution to the livelihood of the local residents. This annual festival is still celebrated today!