

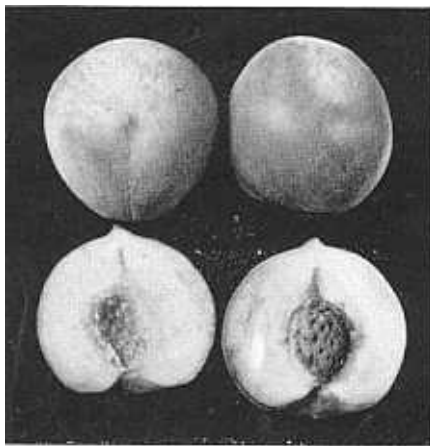
New Peach Varieties of the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station

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Peach varieties named and introduced by the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station during the spring of 1946 are described in this article. The K numbers are given in parentheses after each name to enable those who have test plantings of some of these to relate the types they have to the names as given.

Prairie Daybreak (K69) came from a cross made in 1937 between Halehaven and Sunglo. It ripens about five weeks ahead of Elberta and a week after Red Bird. The tree is vigorous and the flower is medium in size. The buds rank in hardiness about with Elberta. The fruit is large, well-colored when tree ripe, with a red blush. The flesh is light yellow with no coloring at the pit. The quality is good to very good, and the fruit is moderately firm. This variety is believed to have a distinct place among the early list for local markets and roadside stands where fruit of this type is in demand. It differs primarily from the other varieties in being fully freestone as observed in the midwest area.

Prairie Dawn (K73). This variety is a cross between Valiant and Halehaven. It was first fruited in 1941, the cross having been made in 1937. It begins to ripen with Prairie Daybreak and the picking continues for a few days after that variety. The tree is vigorous, and productive. The flower is of medium size and the fruit buds rank in hardiness with the hardiest white varieties in our test plots.



Prairie Sunrise, a new peach from Illinois ripening with Redhaven about a week ahead of Golden Jubilee.

The fruit is high-colored, having much the appearance of Halehaven when ripe. The flesh is medium yellow with no coloring at the pit, and does not discolor when exposed to the air in processing. The flesh is moderately firm. Prairie Dawn has a distinct place in the early variety list on account of its hardiness, appearance and high quality.

Prairie Sunrise (K74), like Prairie Dawn, came from a Valiant X Halehaven cross which was made in 1937. It ripens three to five days after Prairie Dawn and is much the same type of peach. It has ranged in hardiness in our test plots at the Olney Farm between Elberta and Halehaven. The tree is a vigorous grower and very productive. The flower is large, which is an easy way of distinguishing

between *Prairie Sunrise* and the other early varieties. The flesh is medium yellow with no color at the pit. The quality is very good and the fruit is moderately firm. *Prairie Sunrise* is a freestone when fully ripened. This variety fits into the early series and can be used to extend the marketing season in plantings supplying local markets or roadside stands.

Prairie Rose (K80) came from the cross made in 1937 between *Gage* and *Halehaven*. The flower is large and the degree of hardiness ranks about with *Elberta* as observed to date. The tree is moderately vigorous and is productive. The fruit buds rank in hardiness about with *Elberta*. The fruit is medium in size, well-colored and is nearly spherical in shape. The flesh is firm, fine textured, medium yellow with a slight coloring at the pit. When being processed the fruit oxidizes but very little. The quality is very good and as observed thus far the pit is free. *Prairie Rose* promises to have excellent shipping qualities and for its season, three days to a week ahead of *Halehaven*, it would seem to have a place as a commercial peach.

Prairie Schooner (K40) came from a 1933 cross between *Elberta* and *South Haven*. It ripens four or five days ahead of *Halehaven* some seasons and with it in others. The tree is vigorous and productive, the flower is large and the tests so far indicate that the fruit buds are about as hardy as *Halehaven*. The fruit is large, with an attractive red blush and has a pleasing appearance, on account of the contrast between the background and the over-color. The flesh is a bright attractive light yellowish color, with very little color at the pit. The quality is very



Prairie Rambler, a new yellow freestone peach ripening 3-5 days after *Elberta*.

good, the pit is free when tree ripened. The fruit is moderately firm. This variety has proven to be one of the best tested thus far for freezing and oxidizes very little during processing.

Prairie Clipper (K47) is a seedling of *J. H. Hale* X *Gage*. The cross was made in 1933. It ripens normally a little ahead of, or with, *Elberta*. The tree is vigorous and productive, the flower is medium in size and the fruit buds rank in hardiness about with *Elberta*. The fruit is very large, well colored and spherical in shape, similar to *J. H. Hale*. When picked tree ripe the fruit is completely colored, the pit is free, the flesh is firm and the quality is good. It is believed that this variety has a place in the orchard to supplement

the commercial production formerly assigned to J. H. Hale.

Prairie Rambler (K43) came from a cross made between Elberta and Gage in 1933. It ripens three to five days after Elberta. The tree is vigorous and productive and the tests indicate that it is somewhat hardier than Elberta or J. H. Hale. The flower is medium in size, the fruit is large and the yellowish background is completely covered with red, in tree ripened specimens. The shape of the fruit is similar to J. H. Hale. The flesh is firm and the pit is free. This variety is an at-

tractive, high quality freestone, and was selected to extend the Elberta season.

The prefix "Prairie" has been used in the first of the series to be named by this Station because Illinois was known as the Prairie State during the "covered wagon era". This preliminary announcement is made for the convenience of propagators, growers and testers. Trees will be available this fall in limited numbers at the Vienna Nursery Company, Vienna, Ill. for growers who wish to make preliminary tests or for nurserymen who wish to establish a supply of bud wood.



A National Appraisal of Apple Varieties

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The preference of American fruit growers for certain varieties has always been in a process of change. Rarely have such preferences been summarized and analyzed, and then usually on a state or local basis. It is the purpose of this study to provide a basis for a national appraisal of variety planting trends. To a large extent it will be qualitative rather than quantitative, but accurate to the ex-

tent that the sampling has been representative of the great mass of commercial fruit growers.

While it will not be possible at this time to make a complete analysis of the apple and peach variety situation, a region by region summary is presented, which, when pieced together will indicate what the national picture looks like. Because the trend of variety preference is definitely progressive, it is even now possible to suggest how future fruit tree