

type, with approximately 110 berries per standard cup from non-irrigated bushes.

Both fruit and young leaves have a heavy glaucescence and light blue appearance which exceeds that of any other commercial rabbiteye variety. 'Bluegem' plants are moderately

spreading, and make a limited number of new suckers. It is intermediate in plant size between 'Woodard' and 'Tifblue.'

Distribution of plant material will be handled by Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc., P. O. Box 14006, Gainesville, Florida 32601.

## Fruit Evaluation of Peach Cultivars

C. R. URE\*

Peach production constitutes the major share of the fruit produced in Mesa County of Western Colorado, Amounting to three-quarters of one million bushels in a normal season. Elberta is the principle variety grown; and while it does exceedingly well locally, the newer, more highly colored varieties are favored in the market places. Evaluation of newer cultivars was undertaken at grower request, to determine those varieties best adapted to the local conditions, their season of maturity, and production capabilities. Such information enables sound recommendations to be made for new plantings.

Part of the peach cultivar evaluation program at the Orchard Mesa Unit of the C. S. U., Western Slope Branch Stations, Grand Junction, Colorado, consists of conducting taste panels on the fresh, canned and frozen fruit. This phase of the study began in 1965, and has increased in scale as new plantings came into bearing. Three and four years of panel results are now available on many varieties, while only one to two years data have been obtained on others. Each year 30 to 40 panelists evaluate the fresh, canned or frozen fruit of each cultivar.

Fruit samples measuring up to one-half bushel are brought into the lab-

oratory as each cultivar reaches the firm-ripe condition on the tree. Six representative peaches from each variety are tested for acidity, firmness, and sugar content. The samples are held at room temperature (70-75°F) until ripened sufficiently for proper processing. The peaches are then blanched, skin removed, and the fruit is sliced and placed in pint jars for canning, and in 1½ pint plastic containers for freezing. The canned fruit receives a 1:1 ratio syrup, is processed in a boiling-water-bath for 20 minutes, and then tightly sealed and labelled. For freezing, a 3:4 ratio syrup plus ascorbic acid is poured over the sliced peaches. The filled containers are then labelled and frozen in a chest type freezer. The fresh peaches are prepared for evaluation by slicing and adding sugar.

Three evaluations are made of the canned and frozen fruit during the fall and winter months. Two or more different panels are used, and each panel samples six to eight cultivars, which have been numbered. They judge each for color, shape, texture, flavor and general quality, scoring each from one to ten (ten being the highest). At the completion of panel testing, the ratings are summarized, and an average overall rating obtained

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for each characteristic, as well as a general score.

The results are presented in Table 1 as a progress report for the benefit of growers and merchants. The figures in brackets indicate the number of years tested. Cultivars with only one year's testing are included to in-

dicate their possible relative position, and must not be considered as a final rating. Most of the cultivars tested were grown locally in the Grand Valley of Western Colorado. Local growers and operators of roadside stands find this information very helpful in guiding customers in their purchases.

Table 1. Summary of taste panel evaluations of peach cultivars as canned, frozen, and fresh fruit.

Cultivar	Canned	Frozen	Fresh	Cultivar	Canned	Frozen	Fresh
Loring (Rice)	8.47 (1)	7.14 (3)	7.35 (1)	Redtop	7.27 (2)	7.41 (1)	6.92 (2)
Jersey Queen	8.12 (1)	—	—	Cardinal	7.25 (2)	6.92 (2)	6.94 (1)
Gleason	8.04 (4)	7.36 (4)	7.82 (1)	Red Queen	7.25 (1)	7.67 (1)	—
Madison	8.04 (1)	8.01 (1)	—	Daroga Red	7.24 (1)	6.95 (1)	—
Afterglow	7.99 (2)	7.42 (2)	7.58 (1)	Glohaven	7.21 (2)	6.99 (8)	7.57 (2)
Elberta	7.93 (3)	7.74 (3)	7.40 (2)	Western Pride	7.20 (3)	7.70 (2)	7.30 (2)
Redskin	7.91 (5)	7.50 (4)	7.80 (3)	Valentine	7.19 (1)	—	—
Giant Elberta	7.89 (2)	7.16 (4)	7.62 (1)	Redgold	7.17 (3)	6.73 (3)	7.09 (2)
Suncling	7.88 (1)	7.05 (1)	6.78 (1)	Dixired	7.17 (2)	7.20 (2)	6.83 (2)
Sunshine	7.84 (2)	7.09 (3)	6.89 (2)	Triogem	7.10 (3)	6.43 (3)	7.15 (1)
Veteran	7.84 (2)	7.05 (2)	7.26 (2)	Earliglo	7.09 (3)	6.70 (3)	6.62 (1)
Sungold	7.76 (4)	7.36 (3)	7.43 (2)	Redhaven	7.08 (4)	6.83 (4)	—
Late Loring	7.76 (1)	7.65 (1)	—	Halehaven	7.08 (3)	7.09 (3)	7.08 (1)
Early Giant	7.75 (2)	7.00 (1)	—	Herb Hale	7.08 (2)	6.90 (2)	6.95 (2)
Ford's Seedling	—	—	—	Fairhaven	7.07 (4)	6.83 (4)	6.39 (2)
(Harold Ford)	7.75 (1)	6.69 (1)	6.18 (1)	Sunhigh (Station)	7.07 (2)	6.66 (3)	7.15 (3)
Rio Oso Gem	7.74 (3)	7.95 (2)	7.37 (2)	Sunhigh (Sisson)	7.06 (2)	6.45 (2)	7.12 (2)
Imp. Early	—	—	—	Starks Delicious	7.06 (2)	—	—
Elberta	7.74 (2)	7.36 (2)	—	Dawne	6.99 (2)	6.44 (2)	5.64 (1)
Cresthaven	7.72 (2)	8.24 (1)	8.03 (1)	Delps Early	—	—	—
Giant Elberta	7.63 (4)	7.59 (2)	—	Hale	6.94 (1)	6.86 (1)	7.15 (1)
J. H. Hale	7.58 (3)	7.82 (3)	7.25 (2)	South Haven	6.91 (1)	6.21 (1)	6.84 (1)
Loring	7.56 (6)	8.12 (1)	7.63 (3)	Colora	6.89 (2)	6.97 (2)	6.58 (1)
Newday	7.56 (1)	7.61 (1)	7.61 (1)	Starks Delicious	6.79 (1)	6.42 (1)	—
Kalhaven	7.53 (2)	7.70 (1)	7.78 (1)	July Elberta (Station)	6.73 (3)	6.30 (4)	6.90 (3)
Sunhaven	7.52 (4)	6.85 (4)	7.10 (2)	Southland	6.70 (2)	7.47 (2)	7.54 (2)
Suncrest	7.51 (1)	8.02 (1)	—	Late Sunhaven	6.68 (2)	6.80 (1)	—
Candoka	7.49 (2)	8.16 (1)	7.68 (1)	Nectar	6.64 (1)	—	—
Washington	7.44 (2)	7.74 (2)	7.21 (2)	Coronet	6.63 (2)	6.70 (1)	—
Lateglo	7.43 (2)	7.41 (1)	7.30 (1)	Blake	6.57 (3)	7.14 (3)	—
Golden Red	7.43 (1)	7.43 (1)	6.88 (1)	Jubilee	6.47 (2)	6.26 (2)	6.05 (1)
Summer Queen	7.39 (1)	7.86 (1)	7.56 (1)	Globe Haven	6.44 (1)	—	—
Redglobe	7.37 (4)	7.43 (4)	7.47 (1)	Redwin	6.26 (2)	5.93 (1)	4.56 (1)
Richhaven	7.37 (6)	6.98 (5)	7.20 (2)	Shinn Delicious	5.90 (1)	5.64 (1)	—
Goldenred	7.34 (3)	7.18 (2)	6.87 (2)	Golden East	—	6.69 (1)	—
July Elberta (Rice)	—	—	—				
& Weimer	7.33 (4)	7.23 (1)	6.68 (1)				
Ranger	7.31 (4)	7.49 (2)	6.63 (1)				