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### New Peach Varieties by Grant Merrill

The well-known private fruit breeder, Grant Merrill, of Exeter, Cal., has recently introduced four freestone peach varieties adapted to mechanical harvest. These varieties, June Lady, Red Lady, O'Henry and Sundance, can also be hand harvested in one picking. Their harvest dates are as follows: June Lady—after Gemfree and before Redhaven; Red Lady—just after Redhaven; O'Henry—with Rio-Oso Gem; and Sundance—in late August, before Fiesta.

### Grape Breeding in Florida

The grape breeding program of the Watermelon and Grape Investigations Laboratory at Leesberg, Florida, which was initiated in 1944, is described by J. A. Mortensen in the Jan. '68 issue of Sunshine State Agricultural Research Report. The Objectives of the program have been as follows: vine vigor, disease resistance, self-fertile flowers, productivity, adaptability to mechanical harvest, uniform ripening, large fruit clusters of long storage life. It is intended that some varieties will be developed of high dessert quality for fresh market, while others of Concord-like color and flavor will be produced, suitable for processing as juice.

This breeding program has produced four varieties, namely, Lake Emerald, (1954), Blue Lake (1960), Norris (1966) and Stover (1968). The first three have been of value for home use and roadside market in Florida. Stover is a promising variety for fresh market.

### Magness Pear in Texas

R. C. Stump, of Bryan Texas, reports that his Magness pear tree on French seedling rootstock fruited well after only four years in his orchard, along with an adjacent Magness tree of the same age on Quince roots. It has shown no blight in four years. Mr. Stump describes the fruit of Magness as variable, on the small side; shaped like Bartlett, but russeted, delightful to eat, grit free, tender and sweet. When harvested late August to early September in Bryan, the fruit has ripened within two weeks at room temperature.