

SOUTHLAND PEACH INTRODUCED

The introduction of the Southland peach was recently announced by R. M. Salter, Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture. This peach (FV 4-155) is a seedling of Halehaven selfed, and was raised from seeds produced in 1936 at Beltsville, Maryland.

The Southland ripens approximately 16 days before Elberta. The fruit is free-stone, medium to large in size, round, and has a light pubescence. It is attractively colored with a light-red blush covering about one-half the surface at the shipping-ripe stage. The flesh is yellow, firm, slow-softening, medium-textured, and of good flavor.

Trees of Southland are vigorous and productive. Flower-bud set has been

medium to heavy. Blossoms are large-sized and self-fertile. The chilling requirement of its buds to break their rest period is slightly less than that of the Hiley variety. It therefore blossoms early.

The variety has been fruited and tested in Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana. On account of its relatively low chilling requirement and firmness of the fruit it is recommended for trial as a shipping variety for the Southern States to precede Sullivan Elberta.

The Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering has no trees of this variety available for distribution. Information on sources of bud-wood may be obtained from Dr. J. H. Weinberger, U. S. Horticultural Field Laboratory, Fort Valley, Georgia.

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