

Alnarp-2 rootstocks, although the greatest blight incidence occurred on MM 106 trees. The cause of death, noted in November, appeared to be fire blight cankers between the graft union and the ground line. By the fall of 1970, 70 percent of Alnarp-2 trees, 30 percent of EM I, 6 percent of MM 104, and 5 percent of EM VII had died. All the MM 106, MM 111 and EM II trees survived. While it is difficult to definitely determine whether tree death was due to winter

injury to the stock, to fire blight, or to a combination of the two, these data point to a fire blight susceptibility characteristic of Alnarp-2 and the EM I rootstocks.

Several years' observations under Arkansas conditions which were highly favorable for fire blight development point to the fact that M-26, EM IX, Alnarp-2 and EM I are blight susceptible. MM 111 and MM 104 show the most tolerance to blight. MM 106 and EM VII appear to be intermediate in susceptibility.

## Peach Cultivars That Set Fruit Under Wet, Cold Conditions

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Weather during peach bloom in southwestern Washington is often rainy and cold. This causes most peaches to set poorly and produce erratic yields. Forty-five commercial cultivars have been yield-tested since 1944 at the WSU-Southwestern Washington Research Unit of Washington State University\*\* near Vancouver. Yields were compared over a minimum of 5 years of full production.

Those which gave the highest, most consistent yields in order of ripening were Lawrence, Redhaven, Ranger, Golden Jubilee, Rochester, Fairhaven, Pacific Gold, Slappy, Herb Hale, Redglobe, Halehaven, Earlihale, Valiant, Veteran, Vedette, Early Elberta (Gleason strain), Eclipse, and Elberta. Some have faults such as small size, late ripening, poor color, disease susceptibility, poor quality, or softness.

Taking into consideration all important horticultural characteristics, the following cultivars are recommended for western Washington: Redhaven, Ranger, Fairhaven, Redglobe, Herb Hale, Veteran, and Early Elberta (Gleason strain). Cardinal is also included, although yield data are limited, because it fills the need for an early ripening variety. Earlired is of the same season and has better quality, but develops too many split pits. There is a good probability that Early Redhaven will replace Cardinal on our list as we get more information on its ability to yield under adverse conditions. The harvest season for these recommended cultivars extends from July 20 through September 10 in southwestern Washington.

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\*\*Crandall, P. C., D. F. Allmendinger, R. M. Bullock, and J. D. Chamberlain. 1970. Peach Varieties in southwestern Washington. Wash. Agric. Exp. Sta. Circ. 518.