

## Two New Peach Varieties for North Carolina

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As a result of extensive testing at the Sandhills Research Station two promising selections from the cooperative plant breeding program have been approved for naming and release. These two new varieties are named "Rubired" and "Winblo". Combined with high quality these new varieties exhibit high resistance to flesh browning and to bacterial spot.

### RUBIRED

'Rubired' resulted as a seedling from a cross of 'Redhaven' x 'Dixired' made in 1955 and was tested as selection NC 4911. The original seedling tree bore its first fruits in 1958 and had a good to excellent crop each year through 1961 when the tree was removed. Budded trees have produced a crop annually since 1962. In the Sandhills area of North Carolina, following a late spring freeze in 1964, young trees of 'Rubired' had  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a full crop of excellent fruit while other commercial varieties averaged 15% of a full crop. In 1967, another year in which there was less than half a crop of peaches in the area, 'Rubired' had 80% of a full crop. Again in 1971, when many varieties had a light crop, 'Rubired' had a medium to good crop of fruit.

**Season of Ripening:** The first picking date for fruits of 'Rubired' had varied between June 12 to June 26 in different years at the Sandhills Research Station. The harvest period follows that of the 'Candor' variety and just precedes that of 'Pekin' and 'Redhaven'.

**Fruit Characteristics:** The medium to large fruits are larger than most peaches ripening this early in the sea-

son. They are round in shape with very little if any point. The suture fills out and is uniform when the fruits are ripe. The skin surface is  $\frac{3}{4}$  or more covered with a red blush with darker blotches over a light yellow ground color. In certain years many fruits of 'Rubired' have been "split pits."

**Flesh Characteristics:** The flesh is a medium yellow color with little or no red pigment. It is very firm, fine-grained and melting in texture. At the soft ripe stage the fruits are semi-freestone. The flesh is highly resistant to browning when exposed to the air. The flavor is rated good when ripe.

**Bloom:** Chilling requirements of the flower buds is about 800 hours. Trees of this selection bloom late mid-season or about the same time as its 'Redhaven' parent. The flowers are small, non-showy, and self-fertile.

**Tree Characteristics:** Trees budded to several different seedling stocks are moderately vigorous, somewhat spreading and have made good strong trees. Trees are well-adapted to the heavier soils of the Piedmont as well as to the lighter sandy soils. The leaf glands are reniform type.

**Bacterial Spot Resistance:** Trees of 'Rubired' are highly resistant to bacterial spot. The disease has not been a problem on the fruits.

### WINBLO

'Winblo' resulted as a seedling of a cross of 'Redskin' x self made in 1958 and was tested as selection NC 8969. The seedling tree bore its first fruits in 1961 and continued to produce good crops annually. In the Sandhills area following a late spring freeze in

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1964 the seedling tree which was growing in an area without good air drainage had 25% of a crop while commercial varieties had 15% of a full crop. In 1967, another year when a late spring freeze reduced the commercial crop in the Sandhills area to less than half of a full crop, 3-year old budded trees had 25% of a crop. These trees have produced heavy crops annually, including 1971 when some varieties had a very light crop due to poor pollination weather during bloom. Some thinning was required to reduce the load of fruit in 1971 as well as in previous years.

**Season of Ripening:** The first picking date has ranged from July 10 to July 21 at the Sandhill Research Station. 'Winblo' harvest period is near that of the 'Loring' variety.

**Fruit Characteristics:** The fruits are large in size; averaging 2½ inches in diameter when properly thinned. They are round, smooth and without a point or prominent suture. The skin is attractive colored with a red blush covering 75% of the surface, the ground color is a light yellow.

**Flesh Characteristics:** The flesh of 'Winblo' fruits is a bright yellow color with very little red pigment except in

the pit cavity. It is very firm, fine textured, melting and has excellent flavor. The flesh has a good level of resistance to browning when exposed to the air. 'Winblo' has rated good as a canning peach and excellent as a frozen product. The fruits are fully freestone when ripe.

**Bloom:** The chilling requirement of the flower buds is 800 hours. Trees of 'Winblo' bloom during mid-season or 2 to 3 days later than its parent, 'Redskin'. The flowers are large, showy and self-fertile.

**Tree Characteristics:** Trees budded to seedling stock are of medium vigor, productive and have a medium spreading habit of growth. The trees are well-adapted to the heavier soils of the Piedmont area as well as to the lighter soils. The leaf glands are reniform type.

**Bacterial Spot Resistance:** Trees of this variety are moderately resistant to bacterial spot or about equal to that of its parent, 'Redskin'. The disease has not been a problem on the fruits in the Sandhills area of North Carolina.

Trees of these two varieties have been propagated and a limited supply of trees and budwood are available.

## Editorial Suggestion

Members are urged to submit reports of new fruit cultivars, current research and other observations of interest to the Society.

Manuscripts should be submitted for publication typewritten, double spaced (plus a carbon copy for review).

*R. K. Simons, Editor*