

REVIEWS and ABSTRACTS



INDIANA PEACH PRODUCTION

By C. L. Burkholder and C. E. Baker
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About one-third of the information contained in this bulletin is concerned with varieties and should be of considerable interest to variety enthusiasts. Other important factors of peach production are likewise discussed except for training and pruning, and insect and disease control which are covered in other Indiana publications.

Variety Selection Important

Elberta is the heaviest planted peach variety in Indiana, especially for truck lot and carlot sales. This popularity is partly due to the fact that southern Indiana and Illinois Elbertas are ready to market just after the heavy shipments from northern Georgia and Tennessee.

Growers who make new plantings with the idea of mostly supplying a local demand should select varieties which will provide a long ripening period, beginning with Cumberland and ending with a variety such as Afterglow.

Twenty Varieties Discussed

Of the twenty varieties described in this bulletin, five are white fleshed and fifteen are yellow fleshed. The varieties are arranged in order of ripening with each being classified on the basis of hardiness of flower buds, freeness of stone and color of flesh. Brief notes are included concerning ripening period as well as characteristics of the tree and fruit.

Early Perfection is a very early white-fleshed peach which ripens about three weeks before Cumberland. The fruit is of good size, clingstone, and superior in quality to Red Bird. It is suggested for home orchard planting and local trade.

Marigold is too small unless heavily thinned but may be satisfactory for limited local sales.

Redhaven is an attractive, firm, high quality fruit of rather small size. Recommended as a promising early yellow-fleshed peach.

Oriole fruit are too small in size to warrant its planting for any except very limited home use.

Cumberland is listed as one of the

1948 A. P. S. Annual Meeting to be held at Yakima, Wash.

The American Pomological Society will meet with the Washington State Horticultural Association at Yakima, Washington, December 6, 7, and 8; 1948.

This will be a fine opportunity for APS members and friends to visit the great fruit producing center at Yakima, and to meet many western growers and hear a discussion of fruit production and marketing problems.

All persons interested in attending this meeting are urged to notify W. D. Armstrong, Secretary-Treasurer, American Pomological Society, Princeton, Ky. so that plans can be made to travel to Yakima as a group.

which ripens in Halehaven season or slightly later. Suggested for trial as a well-colored, firm, good quality white peach.

Sungold is a promising Hale - type peach ripening between Halehaven and Elberta.

Belle of Georgia is the last white-fleshed variety in this list. Following after Redrose, it extends the sales season into the forepart of the Elberta harvest. The flower buds are among the hardiest. The fruit is of good size and quality and fine for canning or butter.

Early Elberta is a name applied to many widely different peach varieties. The type described here was formerly known as **Summer Gleason**. This peach

ripens during the early part of the Elberta season and is definitely superior to the latter variety for dessert or canning purposes. The flower buds are no more hardy than Elberta. The tree makes wide angled crotches somewhat similar to Gage.

Elberta continues to have grower preference in Indiana for truck and carlot shipments. It is too well known to need further discussion here.

J. H. Hale usually brings at least fifty cents a bushel premium over any other variety on the market during its season, but this is not sufficient to make up for its low yields and high cost of production.

Gage is an Elberta type peach with a vigorous spreading growth habit. The buds may be slightly hardier than Elberta. This variety is recommended to extend the Elberta season.

Shipper Late Red is unfortunately a very mixed up collection of types. Several have been of value to extend the Elberta season but unless the grower can be sure of the type which he is planting, Gage is probably a more dependable variety.

Afterglow is suggested as a promising peach to ripen about five days after

Elberta where Oriental Fruit Moth is not a problem.

Other Information on Production

In addition to the material on varieties this bulletin presents concise and carefully organized material on other aspects of production. The following are some of the more important items.

An investment of \$175.00 to \$200.00 per acre is necessary to bring a peach orchard into profitable bearing at the fourth or fifth growing season.

Peach orchards should be located on an elevated site on a well-drained fertile soil. The trees should be at least 25 x 25 feet apart. On fertile soils 30 x 30 feet is recommended. Medium sized, one-year-old trees are preferred for planting.

Most orchards are cultivated during the early summer followed by a summer cover crop of soybeans and a winter cover of wheat or rye. Enough fertilizer should be applied in early spring to insure an average terminal growth of at least 10 to 12 inches.

The young peach fruits must be thinned in most seasons if the final crop is to be of marketable size. Hand thinning or the pole method are commonly practiced. —W.P.J.

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