

The Sunhaven and Richhaven Peach Varieties

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THE Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station has announced the introduction of two new peach varieties, Sunhaven and Richhaven.

These new varieties originated in the peach breeding project carried on at the South Haven Experiment Station, where a search has been underway for 30 years for better varieties maturing in succession throughout the peach producing season.

The success of the Redhaven variety, introduced in 1940, resulted in many requests for a variety of this type maturing earlier. Sunhaven is being introduced to meet this need. It matures very early, ripening 10 days before Redhaven and 40 days earlier than Elberta. It is much like Redhaven in color and many other characteristics, but is somewhat clingy until fully ripe, when it is a freestone.

There is also a need for a suitable variety maturing in Halehaven season having brighter color than Halehaven and with somewhat firmer, non-browning flesh. Richhaven is larger than Halehaven, brighter in color, firmer, and has rated highly in commercial canning tests. The stone is completely free and the flesh resists browning.

Detailed descriptions of these two new varieties are as follows:

Sunhaven

Origin. Sunhaven originated from the cross: Redhaven x SH 50 (J. H. Hale x Halehaven) made at South Haven in 1944. Before naming it was tested as selection SH 232.

Season. The season of maturity is 10 days earlier than Redhaven and 40 days before Elberta.

Tree. Trees of Sunhaven are large, vigorous and productive. No permanent injury resulted to trees of this variety following -19° F. on November 25, 1950, although fruit buds of all varieties were killed. Sunhaven has been consistently productive, even following unfavorable blossoming weather in the springs of 1949 and 1954.

Fruits. Sunhaven fruits are medium-large in size, nearly round, and uniform in shape. Skin color is much like Redhaven, being largely bright red with sufficient bright golden ground color for attractive contrast. Pubescence (fuzz) is so short and soft as to be almost unnoticeable. The fruits keep and handle unusually well for such an early maturing variety. Flesh is clear yellow, fine-textured, firm, of good flavor and very resistant to browning. It is a freestone when fully ripe, but otherwise a partial cling. So far, peach breeders have had to sacrifice some freeness of the stone where extra earliness is desired.

Sunhaven is not recommended as a canning peach because of clinginess while the fruits are firm. Sunhaven's principal value should be as a very early maturing variety of medium to large size, bright color and excellent flavor, for the fresh fruit market.

Richhaven

Origin. Richhaven originated from the cross: Redhaven x SH 50 (J. H. Hale x Halehaven) made at South Haven in 1944. It was tested before naming as selection SH 297.

Season. Richhaven matures about

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with Halehaven or 14 days before Elberta. Because of its brighter color, it might be picked two or three days before Halehaven.

Tree. Trees of Richhaven are large, vigorous and productive. They withstood -19° F. on November 25, 1950 without permanent injury, although fruit buds of all varieties were killed. Richhaven has had an excellent production record.

Fruit. Fruits are large, nearly round, and uniform in size and shape. The ground color is bright golden overlaid with a large, bright red flush on the area exposed to the sun, with stripes of red and gold on the opposite side. Very attractive in appearance. Pubescence is so short and soft as to be nearly unnoticeable. An unusually thick, tough skin adds to the handling and shipping quality of the fruit. Flesh is clear yellow with a moderate amount of red near the pit. It is medium in texture and resistant to browning. The stone is entirely free even when the fruit is firm ripe.

Richhaven has made a good record in commercial canning trials.

Sources of Nursery Stock

Trees will be available in small numbers from many nurseries in the spring of 1956 and in larger quantities thereafter. The Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station does not have trees for sale.



Cherries in Indiana

I have three trees of the Dayton strain of the Montmorency tart cherry that were obtained from the Bountiful Ridge Nursery, Princess Anne, Maryland, and planted at our Sand Farm, near Evansville, along with

eight or ten other Montmorency strains. The Dayton was the only one that proved to be of commercial value. It has consistently outyielded the standard Bountiful Ridge Montmorency strain in the same orchard, planted the same year. The Simpson Orchard Co., Vincennes, Indiana has used the wood from these trees in the nursery production of this variety.

Sweet cherries do well only in the upper two tiers of counties in Indiana. The black sweets have been most popular for local sale, but there is also a limited demand for the yellow-fleshed varieties such as Napoleon. In this category, I have found that Emperor Francis is much superior to Napoleon.

Of the dark red or black sweet cherry types, I have found Hedelfingen quite susceptible to winter injury. On the other hand, I have a few eight-year old trees of Vernon (originated at Vineland, Ontario), planted the same time as the Hedelfingen, which are very promising.

I would also like to mention the Black Russian sweet cherry variety. This variety, named by my father, was picked up by him from an old nurseryman by the name of Muchmore, who has long since passed away. Muchmore claimed he got bud wood of this variety from an Austrian immigrant. We have rather old trees of the Black Russian in our planting at Clyde, Ohio, and I have been impressed with their resistance to winter injury and their ability to get through adverse frost conditions at blossom time. The tree of this variety has much the shape of Black Tartarian. The fruit is larger than Black Tartarian but not outstanding. Its ripening season, coming in ahead of Schmidt, is quite desirable, especially to those servicing roadside stands or for immediate sale.—C. L. Burkholder, Lafayette, Indiana.