

Meredith — A New Peach for the North*

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MEREDITH (NJ41SD)** is a hardy peach for northern peach-growing areas. It is a seedling from a cross of Slappy x Dewey made at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station in 1916. NJ41SD was described by Blake (1936) and is listed in the "Register of New Fruit and Nut Varieties, 1920-1950," by R. M. Brooks and H. P. Olmo (1952). Selected in 1924 because of outstanding hardiness, NJ41SD has maintained a record for dependably hardy, dormant fruit buds each year since then at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.

In New Jersey, Meredith ripens yellow-fleshed freestone fruits 3½ weeks before Elberta or just after Golden Jubilee. The medium to large fruits are round but bulged and tipped. The flesh is tender to medium firm and of average quality. The flowers are non-showy. As Blake (1936) said: "Although it is hardy and productive of yellow freestone fruits, the red color is a bit too dark and the pubescence too heavy for an attractive commercial peach. It has been used for further breeding at this station but was never named and approved for general propagation."

NJ41SD was sent to the New Hampshire Station for testing in 1950 although it was already known by Professor Meader.

Since NJ41SD proved dependably winter-hardy during a test winter in southern New Hampshire and, moreover, has ripened large fruits of accept-

able quality in the relatively cool summers of New Hampshire, it was thought that the variety should receive a name.

A few of the first fruits to ripen on young vigorous trees of Meredith have split-pits, but the number of such fruits is few compared to the total crop. The red color of the fruits is attractive, and pubescence is not excessive under conditions in the North. For home use and nearby markets, Meredith has a definite place in those areas at the northernmost limits for peach culture.



Rootstock Conference

The Northeast Fruit Tree Rootstock Conference for 1955 will be held at the University of Maine Highmoor Farm on August 18 and 19. All interested parties are welcome to attend with their families. The local committee will appreciate your making your reservations early.



Peach Varieties for Freezing

Studies of 60 varieties of peaches at Beltsville, Maryland, by United States Department of Agriculture workers, indicate that July Elberta, Rio-Oso-Gem and Triogem are outstanding for commercial freezing.

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**NJ41SD is in the parentage of three of the peach varieties introduced by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station to date.