

The Hinners Hale Peach

Although the Hinners Hale Peach is not new, a description of the variety has not been published. At present the Hinners Hale plantings account for 2.4 per cent of the commercial peach trees in Illinois, but it is relatively unknown in other states. The plantings are concentrated in southern Illinois, and all the trees are less than 13 years old. The fruit tree census of 1953 indicated that the popularity of Hinners Hale is decreasing slightly.

The Hinners Hale peach originated as a bud sport on a tree labeled as J. H. Hale. Mr. Ed Hinners, a commercial peach grower near Metropolis, Illinois, discovered the mutant branch in his orchard in 1932. The parent tree was considered by Hinners to be a red sport of J. H. Hale since the appearance of the fruit was not characteristic of J. H. Hale. The Hinners Hale was first propagated by Vienna Nursery, Vienna, Illinois.

The tree is very productive, moderately hardy, moderately vigorous, moderately hardy in bud, and similar to Elberta in susceptibility to bacterial spot. The fruit shape is intermediate to Elberta and J. H. Hale. The fruits are large, firm and attractive, with about 75 per cent red overcolor on a bright yellow ground color. The moderately heavy pubescence detracts somewhat from the attractiveness of the fruit. The flesh is yellow, fine-textured, freestone, somewhat non-browning, red at the stone, and decidedly better in quality than Elberta. The fruit of the Hinners Hale peach is ordinarily used to extend the marketing season of Elberta since it matures three or four days after Elberta, and the fruit will hang on the tree for nearly a week after maturity.—*J. B. Mowry, Superintendent, Illinois Horticultural Experiment Station, Carbondale, Illinois.*

The Blake Peach in New Jersey

I saw 12-year-old trees of the Blake peach on poor sandy soil at the A. J. Farley fruit farm, New Brunswick, New Jersey, heavily loaded with fruit. They had had one light tip picking while Elberta trees of the same age on the same farm were 60 to 70 per cent harvested. It did not appear that Blake was coming in a week ahead of Elberta or in the Sullivan season. However, a heavy picking for shipping could have been made on August 26. In spite of this maturity, Blake fruits were firm, with no sign of dropping. Color was fair to good; size mostly $2\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; quality fair to poor and somewhat acid in flavor. However, A. J. Farley reported good repeat sales of Blake at his very nice and quite extensive road side stand. He feels that Blake is a canning and freezing variety and not a slicer.

Havis, from Beltsville, reports that Blake ripened with them in the Gleason season and not with Sullivan. However, on August 26, I saw Blake on 12- and 4-year-old trees on clay-loam soil in the Rutgers University variety test plantings, ready for commercial picking approximately six days ahead of Elberta. Here it had a brighter color on both 4- and 12-year-old trees than on Farley's sandy soil. There was a perfect load of fruit on the 12-year-old trees in this planting without any thinning, and the fruit averaged $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Quality was better than Farley's Blake, but still not good.

Blake is very resistant to *Bacterium pruni* and makes a good, thrifty growing tree under New Jersey conditions.—*C. L. Burkholder, Purdue Univ., Lafayette, Indiana.*



Remember to renew your subscription to *Fruit Varieties and Horticultural Digest* for 1956.