

The Redhaven Peach

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This rather new peach, introduced by the Michigan Experiment Station, is probably here to stay for a long time. Over a period of years we have tested numerous varieties in home-canning. For the past seven years, the last jar of Redhaven would be emptied while other varieties stood on the shelves in practically solid rows. Its delicious flavor seemingly is unsurpassed.

Excellent results have also been obtained by quick freezing at home. Discoloration from oxidation is barely noticeable several hours after the fruit has been thawed.

Redhaven has several other attributes of an ideal peach. One of these is its attractive brilliant red color. The tree is a fairly vigorous grower, wide spreading and produces an abundance of fruit buds. Probably 80 percent of the buds could be destroyed by freezing and the tree still bear a good crop of fruit.

Redhaven like most peaches has a number of undesirable features. The most important of these is the tendency to produce fruits which are smaller than is commercially desirable. They size quite uniformly on the tree but will

average only about two inches in diameter.

If a few special practices are followed the size of the fruit can be markedly increased. The following are a few suggestions.

1. In setting out an orchard of several varieties, Redhaven should be planted on the most fertile soil.

2. After trees come into bearing and unless making very satisfactory growth, extra applications of fertilizer, especially potash may be warranted.

3. In pruning, head back the branches somewhat more severely than usual, and remove the unproductive wood from the center of the tree.

4. As soon as possible after fruit has set, a quick, inexpensive thinning, by pole method may be employed. No attempt is made at thoroughness. About a week or two later when there is a distinct difference in size of the fruits, a thorough job of grading on the tree is done, by removing all medium or smaller peaches.

5. Peaches should be allowed to remain on the trees as long as possible before harvesting and then only the largest be thinned out. At least three pickings are advisable.

It has been observed that as the trees grow older, they bear larger peaches.

