

The Fairhaven Peach

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The Fairhaven peach originated at the South Haven (Michigan) Experiment Station from a cross made between J. H. Hale and South Haven (J. H. Hale x South Haven) in 1930. The variety was named and introduced in August, 1946.

Fairhaven is the fourth member of the Haven family of peaches developed as a result of the peach breeding project of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station. It matures about three weeks earlier than Elberta. This is a week before Halehaven, and just at the end of the Redhaven season.

Test plantings of Fairhaven have indicated that the trees are vigorous and productive. Fruit buds are more resistant to winter cold than Elberta, although not as hardy as Rochester or Ambergem. The degree of resistance to frost injury is not fully known, but good sets of fruit have been obtained under cold, rainy and foggy spring weather conditions.

Fairhaven usually sets fruits rather heavily, but produces peaches of moderately good size, even when carrying a heavy crop. When properly thinned, fruits attain large size.

Fruits of Fairhaven are nearly round, and mostly bright golden in color, with an attractive, lively red check. The skin is smooth and tough. The golden color becomes bright while the fruit is still firm. The fruits are very firm and ship exceptionally well for an early peach.

The flesh is medium-yellow with a moderate amount of red color at the pit, moderately fine-texture, and of good flavor. It is very resistant to browning on exposure to air, which is a great advantage, especially in processing. The stone is free when the fruit is fully ripe.

There is no substitute for time in determining the true value of a variety. Fairhaven was introduced less than three years ago. Commercial plantings of moderate size are just now being made. It is always wise to test new varieties on a moderate scale at first. In one of his famous letters, the Apostle Paul made the following comment. "Prove all things. Hold fast that which is good." (First Thessalonians, 5:21).

This is excellent advice with regard to trying out new fruit varieties. Test them moderately at first. They may prove to be very valuable, and again may turn out to be worthless. In the meantime, hold fast to the varieties that have shown themselves to be good.

The Fairhaven peach, a promising new variety ripening a week ahead of Halehaven.

