

Peach Varieties in the Southeast

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As the climatic limitations of the commercial peach industry are approached in the Southeastern States, peach varieties behave quite differently than in the more northern sections of the country. Here peach orchards grow rapidly and are relatively short-lived. For this reason varieties are discarded rapidly if they do not stand up under the extremes of climate, the ravages of insects and disease, as well as the economic limitations imposed by a region which must ship its fruit long distances to its principal markets.

The greater difficulty in the control of Plum Curculio and Oriental Fruit Moth with midseason and late varieties has definitely encouraged the planting of earlier ripening types. Competition from the other peach-growing sections also has accelerated the planting of earlier varieties in an effort to obtain the higher prices prevailing in that season. Lastly, the swing in popular preference to yellow peaches has discouraged the planting of many white-fleshed varieties.

In the past, there was some demand for canned white-fleshed peaches, but this demand has now decreased to the point where most canneries do not process these varieties. Varieties such as Mayflower, Uneeda, Red Bird, and Early Rose are no longer being planted

to any extent primarily due to their extremely low quality and public refusal to purchase this poor fruit on repeat sales.

Old Favorites Fall by the Wayside

Golden Jubilee is now showing decreased plantings since it does not ship well. Halehaven, through a good processing variety, has probably reached the peak of its popularity because it does not handle very well; Hiley and similar peaches will show a decline in the future because of competition with good yellow peaches in the same season. J. H. Hale is not being given consideration because of low productivity.

Quite frequently varieties which have been developed in the breeding programs of other states have not proven to be successful in the Southeast, although excellent in the area for which they were developed. Varieties which tend to have uniform shape further north are usually more irregular and with very pronounced tips and sutures in the South. Of the newer varieties, Earlyeast and Jerseyland are extreme examples of this tendency. Some of the new Illinois varieties behave similarly. However, several new varieties have been developed for this section which are apparently well adapted. Due credit should be given to the fine work of Dr. John H. Weinberger of the United States Department of Agriculture for the development of the Dixired, Dixigem, and Southland, as well as many

other selections under trial. It has meant a greatly increased financial return to many Georgia and South Carolina growers and evidently this is only the beginning.

Below are listed some of the better commercial peach varieties for the Southeast according to their ripening period.

DIXIRED (Halehaven selfed)—Dixired is a highly-colored, early, yellow, clingstone peach of good quality, ripening about six weeks ahead of Elberta. The only other commercial peach ripening at the same time is the Uneeda, which offers little or no competition because of its poor quality and white flesh. The fruit is medium size and round with very light pubescence. The chilling requirement to break the rest period is intermediate, and because of this, the variety is not adapted to sections in which the winter temperature is much higher than found at Fort Valley, Georgia. The variety is recommended as an early shipping clingstone peach and also for use as a early local market variety.

ERLY-RED-FRE—This variety is white, of good size, and medium quality. It ripens five weeks ahead of Elberta, when no good yellow or white peaches are available. This variety is recommended only for limited commercial planting.

DIXIGEM (Dewey x St. John x Southaven)—Dixigem is a medium-sized, early, yellow-fleshed peach with light pubescence. It ripens about 4½ weeks ahead of Elberta. It shows somewhat of a clinging tendency, but in most years

will separate from the stone rapidly when ripe. Its shipping quality is good. Its dessert quality is high and it is rated superior as a canning and freezing peach. One of its outstanding characteristics is that the flesh is non-browning. This characteristic greatly increases its value as a freezing peach. Climatically, it is adapted to the sections in which the Elberta is now grown. This variety will require thinning to get good commercial size. Dixigem is recommended as an early shipping peach, as a local market variety, and for home-use processing. Its tendency to cling some years may prevent its commercial use as a processing peach.

PEARSON HILEY—This white-fleshed peach is of recent origin and is patented under Plant Patent 760. So far as is known, no trees are available for general distribution. It is mentioned since fairly large commercial shipments of this variety will be made, and may have some bearing on the price received for Hiley-type peaches. This variety is an extra early Hiley, possessing about the same fruit as the Early Hiley except that it has a great deal more exterior red color, and when fully mature, the flesh is nearly a full red. The Early Hiley has much less color with practically none in the flesh. The Pearson Hiley has a very high acid content. Its main advantage is that it precedes the Early Hiley in ripening by about a week and the Elberta by approximately four weeks.

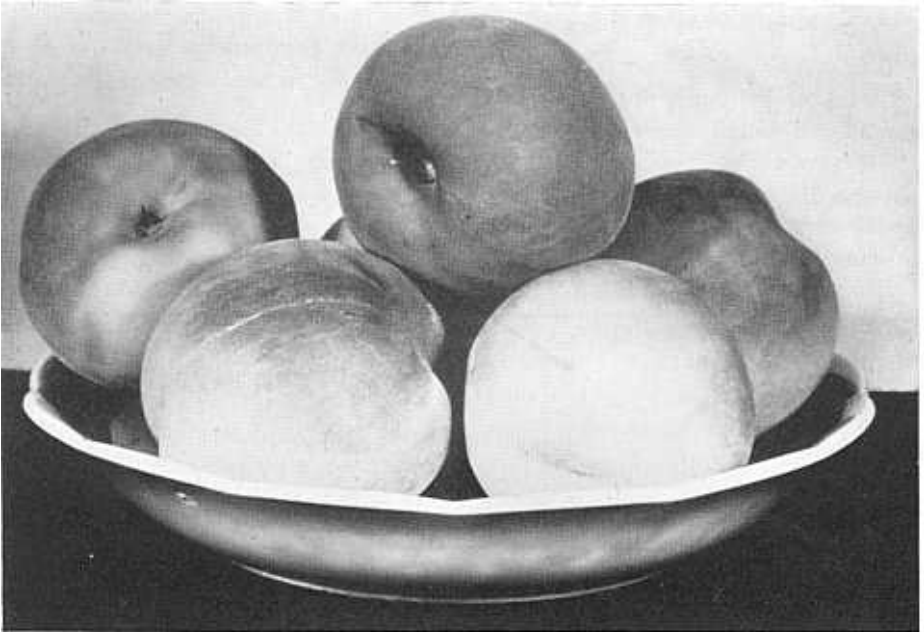
REDHAVEN (Halehaven x Kalehaven)—The Redhaven is a yellow-fleshed, medium-sized fruit nearly always covered

with a brilliant red color. Its main disadvantage is that it sets very heavily and thus tends to be small. To obtain proper size heavy thinning is necessary. Its tough skin and firm flesh make it a good shipping peach. It is classed as a freestone, but it nearly always clings too much to be used for commercial canning or freezing. Because of this tendency to cling, it is a very satisfactory pickling peach. Like Dixigem it also has non-browning flesh. This variety is adapted for the areas where the Elberta is now grown. The variety apparently is very resistant to bacteriosis. It is recommended for a commercial shipping peach and one suited for limited processing. Since it ripens at about the same time as Dixigem and has a long

ripening period, the ripening period of the two varieties will overlap.

EARLY HILEY—This variety is evidently a bud sport of Hiley, ripening about three weeks ahead of Elberta and about one week ahead of regular Hiley. It is a white peach and is being planted largely to take the place of regular Hiley, particularly in the South Georgia peach section.

SOUTHLAND (Halehaven selfed)—The Southland is a round, yellow, freestone peach of medium to large size which ripens about two weeks ahead of Elberta. The peach is attractive with a light red blush overlaying the yellow ground color. Since the flesh is firm and slow ripening, it makes a good ship-



Halehaven, still being widely planted in northern peach areas, has probably reached its peak in the South and may now begin to decline somewhat in popularity.

ping variety. The chilling requirement of the buds to break the rest period is approximately the same as that of Hiley. Therefore, the Southland can be grown anywhere that Hiley is grown and is especially adapted to the southern part of the peach belt and extends the limits of that belt beyond that of Elberta.

TRIOGEM (J. H. Hale x Marigold)—Triogem is a firm, yellow-fleshed, free-stone of high quality ripening about 2½ weeks ahead of Elberta. This variety ripens slowly. If given good culture and proper thinning it will produce good-sized fruit. It is rated superior for canning and freezing since it is of high quality, easily peeled and pitted, and makes an attractive pack. It is especially recommended for local market and home-use processing and has been planted commercially to a limited extent.

HILEY—This well-known white variety has long been one of the principal commercial peach varieties. It ripens about two weeks ahead of Elberta. It has the disadvantage of being a white

peach in a market showing a decided preference for yellow-fleshed varieties. This variety is no longer being planted extensively because of the immediate price drop as soon as the first Sullivan Elberta come on the market. The overlapping of the Hiley and Sullivan Elberta seasons, plus increasing public sales resistance to white fleshed peaches, will probably prevent any further plantings of Hiley except for local markets.

HALEHAVEN (J. H. Hale x South Haven)—Halehaven, although quite widely planted, has probably reached its peak as a commercial variety. Its main disadvantages are that it is small some seasons, is not a particularly good shipping variety, and its red color may be too dull to be attractive. It is a fairly good processing peach. Sullivan Elberta will give this variety serious competition in the latter part of its ripening season.

SULLIVAN ELBERTA — This bud sport of Elberta, found in an orchard

RIPENING SEQUENCE OF STANDARD AND NEW PEACH VARIETIES

Weeks Ripening before Elberta			
Mayflower (W)	8	Golden Jubilee (Y)	3½
Uneeda (W)	6	Early Hiley (W)	3
Dixired (Y)	6	Triogem (Y)	2½
Red Bird (W)	5½	Southland (Y)	2½
Early Rose (W)	5	Hiley (W)	2
Erly-Red-Fre. (W)	5	Halehaven (Y)	2
Dixigem (Y)	4½	Sullivan Elberta (Y)	1
Pearson Hiley (W)	4	Elberta (Y)	
Redhaven (Y)	4		

Weeks Ripening after Elberta

J. H. Hale (Y) ½

(W) White-fleshed varieties

(Y) Yellow-fleshed varieties

near Zebulon, Georgia, is similar in fruit characteristics to regular Elberta with the exception that it ripens a week earlier. It is apparently much more susceptible than regular Elberta to bacteriosis and the phony peach disease. Its earliness decreases the amount of injury likely to occur, when compared with regular Elberta. There is some indication that it is not as good a shipper as Elberta. The greatest single advantage of the Sullivan Elberta is that it resembles Elberta so closely that the season of marketing Elberta type peaches is considerably lengthened.

ELBERTA — This yellow, freestone variety is too well known to make any description necessary. It is still the No. 1 variety in the Southeast, as well as the

entire nation, and will probably continue to be so for many years to come. The principal objection to this variety is its low quality. Although the Elberta is more than holding its own in most peach sections, it is going into a decline in some southern peach growing areas because of:

1. Its lateness which results in greater second brood curculio damage.
2. Competition from Sullivan Elberta in its own area.
3. Competition from Sullivan Elberta from the other peach sections.

This factor is very important since the Sullivan Elberta can probably be grown more cheaply than the regular Elberta.



The Redcrop Strawberry

By Frank Gilbert

New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

Redcrop is the name of a new strawberry which has been developed at the Agricultural Experiment Station of Rutgers University. It is being introduced for commercial use by the Small Fruits Industry Committee of the State Horticultural Society.

Redcrop, formerly known as N.J.377, has not been thoroughly tested in the northern counties. In North Jersey it should be planted on a limited basis until its true worth has been determined.

Redcrop is a heavy yielder of large,

high quality, firm, attractive berries, red to deep red in color. The red color extends through the center of the fruit. Hollow centers, which detract from the consumer appeal of some varieties of strawberries, are not found in Redcrop. The fruit freezes well.

It ripens 2 to 4 days after Pathfinder and about a week before Sparkle, and has a long picking season. It makes a good bed of very stocky plants which so far have demonstrated resistance to red stele disease.

Plants are being distributed by the Small Fruits Industry Committee, Box No. 3-55, R..D. No. 3, Princeton, N. J.