

NEW JERSEY PEACH VARIETIES

L. F. Hough and Catherine Bailey

New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

The newly named peach varieties from Professor Blake's breeding program at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station give a succession of yellow and white varieties ripening over more than two months. Commercial peach growers in many other areas might consider that many of the New Jersey peach men were growing variety collections on a commercial scale. But this extended ripening season seems to pay in New Jersey since it is possible for growers to pick, pack and market their peaches with relatively small labor crews and with limited packing facilities.

Maybell and Cherryred are the earliest of these new varieties. They ripen a week ahead of Redbird or seven weeks ahead of Elberta. Maybelle is an attractive, good quality, medium sized, white peach. It is quite firm for this season and is promising for a local market variety although it is only semi-free. Cherryred is a large, highly colored, yellow, non-melting clingstone that often has considerable red throughout the flesh. It is much better quality, much better color, larger and is as hardy and productive as Redbird. In addition, it is yellow and ripens a week earlier so it should surely replace Redbird.

Early East is a large, well-colored, yellow, nearly freestone peach that

ripens a week after Maybelle or about with Redbird. It is hardier in bud than Elberta. Early East has been planted quite widely in New Jersey and our peach marketing season really opens with this variety.

Jerseyland starts in a week to ten days later or about $4\frac{1}{2}$ weeks ahead of Elberta. It is the first yellow, fully freestone variety that will stand up under commercial handling. It is large and colors well before it is ripe, often becoming too dark during the later pickings. The buds are hardier than Elberta. On the basis of a few commercial plantings in other states, Jerseyland seems to be very promising for practically all the eastern peach growing areas except perhaps the far south.

Raritan Rose is a slightly older white variety ripening a few days after Jerseyland. It is large, well colored, moderately firm, good quality and is the most popular of the new white varieties for local market.

Triogem and Newday are the next yellow varieties to ripen. They come in about a week or ten days after Jerseyland or about three weeks ahead of Elberta. Both are becoming quite well established. Triogem is a firm, free, high quality, good shipping peach that has proved to be good for freezing and canning. Newday ripens about the same time and many growers have suggested that this selection is easier to grow although the fruits are not quite as firm and they are often not fully freestone.

Sunhigh is a very attractive, large, firm, yellow peach ripening a few days after **Triogem** that may be considered a standard of quality for fresh fruit as well as frozen and canned fruit. Good packs of this variety usually top the market. However, the fruit often is not completely freestone until it is fully ripe and the tree is no more resistant to bacterial spot than its **J. H. Hale** parent.

We have three early mid-season white peach varieties that are all from the cross of **J. H. Hale** by **Delicious**, and, as might be expected, all three of them are quite similar in fruit and tree characters. **Wildrose** is the earliest. It ripens just before **Sunhigh** or about a week after **Raritan Rose**. **Redrose** is next, coming in just a little after **Sunhigh** and nearly a week after **Wildrose**. The third is **Summerrose** which ripens a few days after **Redrose** and just after **Goldeneast**. All three of these varieties are very attractive, of good quality, large, firm, white and freestone. They are hardier in bud than **Elberta**.

Goldeneast comes in at the peak of our mid-season peach harvest, nearly a week after **Sunhigh** and two weeks ahead of **Elberta**. It is a large, firm, good quality, productive variety much like its **Elberta** parent in both tree and fruit, but it has been more susceptible to bacterial leaf spot and the fruit tends to have a dull greenish undercolor until nearly tree ripe.

There are two newly named varieties, **Summercrest** and **Redcrest**, that ripen during the very important harvesting

season, a week ahead of **Elberta**. **Summercrest** is a large, yellow freestone and the fruit is very good for canning. The tree is very vigorous and productive. Because of its vigor and season of ripening, this variety has become quite well established in New Jersey, even though the fruit is not quite as firm as might be desired for a shipping peach and has a greenish ground color until tree ripe.

Redcrest is a still newer introduction that is just as large, much more attractive than **Summercrest** and is very good for freezing and canning. Because of its bright red and yellow color it would usually be harvested just before **Summercrest**. At first it seemed as though this variety would supercede **Summercrest**; but since it has come into commercial production up and down the state, a premature breakdown has frequently been observed as the fruits become fully ripened. Because of this weakness, **Redcrest** is no longer recommended for planting by the Experiment Station and its propagation has been discontinued.

We have no varieties to compete directly with **Elberta** but the **White Hale** is a very large, very firm, good quality white peach ripening at this season. This is the one white variety which is truly firm enough to stand commercial shipment.

Laterose and **Fallate** are two large, firm, attractive, good quality white-fleshed freestone peaches coming in after **Elberta** and **White Hale**. **Laterose** usually is about five days to a week after **White Hale**, and **Fallate** will

usually come in a few days later or a week to ten days after White Hale.

About this time, we have three large, yellow fleshed freestone varieties: **Afterglow**, **Goodcheer** and **Constitution**. Afterglow usually ripens just at the end of the Elberta harvest. The fruit is of high quality and the trees are vigorous, hardy and productive so that this variety has been very satisfactory to prolong the Elberta season. However, it is quite susceptible to bacterial spot. Constitution and Goodcheer usually come in just after Afterglow or about a week to ten days after Elberta. They are both attractive, high quality, productive varieties. Goodcheer is a little brighter in appearance, seldom being more than half covered with red which may be quite a factor in a late peach. Constitution is often almost wholly colored with red and thus may appear to be a little dull. It is usually of better quality than Good-

cheer and has proved to be very good for freezing and canning.

Autumn is a yellow, freestone variety, ripening a full two weeks after Elberta. The fruit is large, firm, smooth and truly high quality for so late a peach. The tree is very vigorous and productive but the fruit has a somewhat dull greenish appearance until it is fully ripe.

Last of all, there is **Frostqueen** which usually ripens a bit later than Autumn and two weeks or more after Elberta. It is a good, large, attractive, white freestone variety. Growers who supply their own or nearby local markets may be sure that this peach will enable them to wind up their season with a good taste still in the customer's mouth.

The varieties discussed in this article are available from the New Jersey Peach Council, Inc., New Brunswick, New Jersey.



Fruit Trees — OUR GREAT SPECIALTY. Splendid Stock, Best Commercial Varieties, Bud Selection. Save by purchasing at special contract prices. Write or Call for Your Order.

SPRING HILL NURSERIES CO.

TIPP CITY, OHIO

Tom and Howard Kyle, Owners and Operators
