

The ripening season of Wolcott is about the same as for Weymouth and that of Murphy slightly earlier than that of June and Stanley. The berry size of both varieties is about the same as for Weymouth. The color of fruit is slightly better than Weymouth, but not so blue as that of Stanley. The flavor of both varieties is superior to Weymouth. The scar of Wolcott is excellent, while the scar of Murphy is about the same as that of Weymouth. Both varieties are far more resistant to canker than Weymouth, June, and Stanley. Wolcott is about as susceptible to mite as Weymouth, while Murphy is slightly more resistant.

Both varieties have been tested in North Carolina, but not in regions

farther north. Because of their color, which is only slightly better than that of Weymouth, and because they have the native North Carolina blueberry in their parentage, they are not recommended for trial north of North Carolina. Plants are available from cooperating growers.

Neither the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering nor the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station has plants of these varieties for sale. For sources of supply, get in touch with E. B. Morrow, care of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, State College Station, Raleigh, N. C.

(U.S.D.A. release, December 1, 1949.)



Stone Fruit Production in New Mexico

By ARNOLD KROCHMAL
Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
and L. C. GIBBS

State College, New Mexico

Home plantings of stone fruits are fairly common throughout most of New Mexico, although commercial plantings are generally limited to the irrigated portions of the state, such as the southern counties of Otero, Socorro, Sierra, Lincoln and De Baca, the northern counties of Santa Fe, Bernalillo, Valencia and Rio Arriba, and the northwestern county of San Juan,

which is the state's leading fruit producer.

In the past few years water shortages, use of unsuitable varieties and late frosts have resulted in the pulling out of a good many orchards. At present the trend is toward locating new plantings only in areas where climate, soil and yields have been satisfactory over a period of years.

Some characteristics of New Mexico climate, such as extremely low winter temperatures accompanied by drying winds, and very late spring frosts, have

been decisive in eliminating some stone fruit varieties and bringing others to the fore. The winter months are sufficiently cold to satisfy the rest period, but the late winter and early spring are not cold enough to enforce dormancy until the danger of spring frosts is over. Hence growth starts so early in the spring that late frosts are often disastrous.

Stone fruit variety lists which follow have proven their worth in tests in the New Mexico A & M College Experimental Farm and in the fruit growing areas of the state. Numerous other varieties can and are being grown. However, they are of lesser importance at present.

Peaches

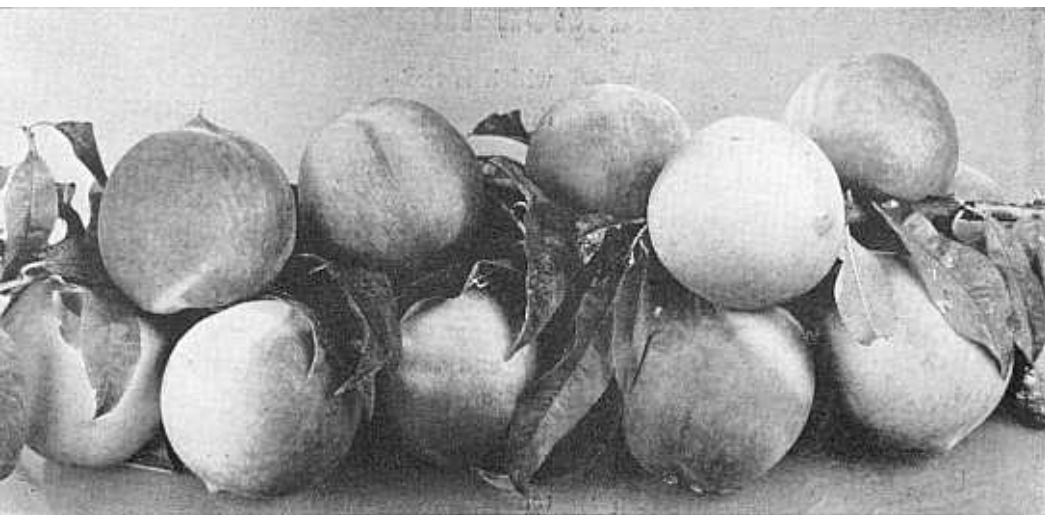
Growers average about two crops each five years as a result of late killing frosts. Therefore the most desir-

able varieties must have hardy buds and bloom late.

Among the yellow freestone varieties, South Haven and J. H. Hale, mid-to late-spring bloomers, and Halehaven, Elberta and July Elberta, late-spring bloomers, are all popular in the state, as are Redhaven, Golden Jubilee and Rochester, which are grown to a limited extent. Mikado, a yellow semi-clingstone, and Erly-Red-Fre and Hiley, white freestone varieties, are also found in some plantings.

Generally the varieties listed above ripen in this approximate order:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Erly-Red-Fre | 6. Hiley |
| 2. Mikado | 7. Halehaven |
| (June Elberta) | 8. South Haven |
| 3. Redhaven | 9. July Elberta |
| 4. Golden Jubilee | 10. Elberta |
| 5. Rochester | 11. J. H. Hale |



July Elberta peach is popular in New Mexico and many other states.

Plums

Many of the more popular varieties are well adapted to New Mexico conditions, and rarely fail to make a crop. Blue Damson, Climax and Stanley are all grown successfully in the state. Stanley, in particular, has borne crops with regularity when other stone fruits have been hard hit by frosts. Methley, an early bloomer,* has been injured by late frosts in several seasons.



Young Stanley plum tree at the New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station's horticultural farm, located in the Mesilla Valley of southern New Mexico.

Apricots

These are the most difficult of stone fruits to grow in New Mexico, due to early blooming, and rarely bear a crop. Moorpark and Wilson Delicious are generally grown in the central part of the state, and Wilson Delicious in the southern irrigated valleys.

few plantings of sweet cherries which include the varieties Bing, Lambert, Napoleon (Royal Anne) and Governor Wood are also found in the state.

Cherries

Royal Duke, an attractive variety, is a steady bearer and rarely misses a year. Early Richmond, Montmorency and English Morello are sour cherry varieties that are grown in the state. A

*Green cut on page 25 shows Methley blooming Feb. 3, 1950, at Knoxville, Tenn.

Nectarines

Some nectarines appear to crop more regularly in New Mexico than either peaches or apricots. Flaming Gold, Sure Crop and Hunter are all popular with growers, and are fairly regular bearers.

The Callaway and Coastal Blueberries

(Press release from Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, Georgia, January, 1950.)

The first varieties of the rabbiteye blueberry to be developed by a systematic breeding program are being released for general planting. These

varieties, CALLAWAY and COASTAL, resulted from a cross of two varieties, Myers and Black Giant, which were selected from the wild. They were developed as a result of cooperative breeding work conducted by the United States Department of Agricul-