shrivelling. Spotting of the skin, so common with Jonathan and Baldwin, does not develop. The best quality is reached in late February to mid March, well after most other varieties have passed their prime. Suggested test areas are those regions where Rome, Jonathan and Winesap are commercial varieties.

Scions are available for distribution and the Illinois Experiment Station will welcome comments and observations from anyone who cares to test this promising new variety. (Received for publication November 27, 1951.)

Cardinal, a New Early Peach Variety for the South

The Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering on June 15, 1951, released for propagation the peach variety **Cardinal**, formerly tested as FV-101. **Cardinal** is a seedling of Halehaven selfed. The parent was selfed in 1941 and the seedling selected in 1945 in the peach breeding investigations carried on by J. H. Weinberger at the U. S. Horticultural Field Laboratory, Fort Valley, Georgia.

Cardinal ripens 4 days ahead of Dixired, or 6½ weeks earlier than Elberta. The fruit is clingstone, medium-sized, round, with very light pubescence. About three-fourths of the surface is covered with a bright, attractive red blush over a yellow ground color. The flesh is yellow, firm but melting, medium-textured, and of good flavor. The fruit approaches Dixired in size, and is almost identical with it in color, appearance and firmness.

Trees of **Cardinal** are productive, but only moderately vigorous. The blossoms are medium-sized and self-fertile. They usually open shortly after Elberta blossoms open. The chilling requirement to break the rest period of its buds is about 900 hours of temperatures 45° F. or lower, or slightly more than Elberta and slightly less than Dixired.

The variety has been fruited and tested largely in Georgia, both on a minor and a commercial scale. On account of its moderately high chilling requirement, it should not be planted in the southernmost peach districts. It should succeed where Dixired can be grown, for it resembles the latter very closely in fruit and tree habits, but is 4 days earlier in ripening.

The Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering has no trees of this variety available for distribution. Information on sources of budwood may be obtained from Dr. J. H. Weinberger, U. S. Horticultural Field Laboratory, Fort Valley, Ga.—From release notice, signed for U.S.D.A. by F. P. Cullinan, Acting Chief of Bureau.