
Letters

Weather and New Peaches in Ontario

Dear Dr. Burkholder:

The winter has been very kind to the peaches here. The lowest was 4 below zero. No dead buds. Strange as it may seem, this Lake Erie North Shore seems to get by the winters, about as well as anywhere. When the cold comes from the north, Lake Huron moderates it. When it comes from the south or west, Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair do the moderating. However, once in a while, the cold comes from the northeast and passes between Lake Ontario and Georgian Bay. In that event we are frozen out. This happened several times. Seldom are we caught with a spring frost. My own estimate is for a 2,000,000 bushel crop in Ontario.

I believe I told you that I sell nearly all my peaches from two selling stations. These can hardly be called road-side stands. I grade, pack and sell both retail and wholesale from these salesrooms. I have my own trucks to make wholesale deliveries from each of these stands. My wife manages the one at Delhi, my sister the one at Shakespeare. In that way I eventually get most of the money received.

Good size and high color are very important. Redhaven is my best seller. However, in 1950 the Redhavens were perfect clingstones. The

retail trade kicked, but came back for more. They just couldn't resist the color. The Golden Jubilee were free and had good size but looked so sick alongside the Redhaven I couldn't sell them. They about all went to the canners.

I had a similar experience with Elberta versus Redskin. My Elbertas were of good size, but rather poor color. When offered for sale alongside the Redskin, the retail trade especially wouldn't buy them. One advantage I had with the wholesale trade, they didn't see the Redskin. I didn't dare send out mixed loads to the wholesale trade. The Elberta was satisfactory as long as the buyer didn't see the Redskin. How this peach will turn out in the long run, I wish I knew. At the present time, I am all for the Redskin to take care of the Elberta season.

My Sullivan Elbertas were nothing to boast over. They were poor in color, bad with leaf spot, and dropped on the ground most terribly. On the other hand my Kalhavens were good size, high color, and they were hard to knock off, even with a club. In fact they stuck on too tightly. A too high percentage were ruined in the picking. If the Kalhavens are ripe at all, and the picker is not careful, the stem will tear a chunk out of the peach. They need to be picked with a twist. (Continued, Page 18)

Weather and New Peaches

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In my way of thinking the Burbank Elberta cannot be in any way compared with ordinary Elberta. It is an entirely different peach. It is a good one. In quality, it is about the best of all.

The Dominion Experimental Station manager at Harrow advises me to plant Dixired, for an early peach. At Harrow, last season Dixired as an early peach was tops. It was better than any other peach of its season. Good color, good flavor, and not so bad in the way of a clingstone.

One thing and that is for sure, the wholesaler is much easier to do business with than the housewife. When one sells the housewife peaches she doesn't like, she won't come back. The wholesaler doesn't care. He doesn't do the job of eating them.

A. GRANT FOX

Normandale, Ontario

Value of Blossom Thinning with Redhaven Peach

Dear Mac:

The Redhaven peach is being discussed considerably these days and it has been planted to some extent in all peach producing districts of the country.

Earliness, beautiful red color, and firm, non-browning flesh are valuable characteristics. Small size of fruit is the principal weakness of the variety.

Amazingly good results have been obtained from thinning Redhaven during the blossoming season. Thinning at this time has resulted in a high percentage of the crop reaching the 2½ to 3-inch sizes.

Various methods of blossom thinning have been tried. These include spraying with dinitro materials, the use of brush brooms of various kinds, spraying with water under high pressure, and the removal of blossoms by hand.

Each of these methods has its advocates. The peach grower will have to determine which suits his needs best.

The number of blossoms to leave on the tree will depend upon the frost hazard in the orchard. From two to four times as many blossoms should be left as fruits desired at harvesting time.

A corrective hand thinning should be made later if the set is too heavy.

It is commonly thought that blossom thinning is more expensive than the ordinary fruit thinning done later. However, it actually is not quite as expensive, and the benefits derived from blossom thinning Redhaven and other very early maturing peaches, are well worth obtaining.

STANLEY JOHNSTON

Research Professor

of Horticulture

Michigan State College

South Haven Experiment Station

South Haven, Michigan