

Mix-Up of Loring and Redskin Peach Varieties

Evidently many growers as well as Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations have obtained Redskin peach trees when they requested the Loring variety. This seems particularly true in many of the Southern States. Both are promising new yellow freestone varieties. Both are highly colored, firm, and resistant to bacterial spot. Furthermore, both varieties have a fairly low cold requirement, which increases their popularity in some southern peach areas.

Probably the most reliable and simple distinguishing character between the Redskin and the Loring is their time of ripening. The Loring ripens about 12 days earlier than the Redskin. The Redskin ripens with the Elberta in most northern areas, where both varieties bloom at approximately the same time. In many southern regions, however, Redskin ripens a few days earlier than Elberta. Loring also blooms early under the same conditions, so it still ripens about 12 days earlier than Redskin in the South. Loring usually starts ripening before such varieties as Halehaven, July Elberta, and Southland is completed and its harvest period extends somewhat later.

We hope that this unfortunate mix up of the Loring and Redskin varieties can be straightened out within a short time. Nurserymen and Experiment Station workers especially should check their trees and bud sources carefully and promptly.—*A. Leon Havis, Beltsville, Maryland (President, American Pomological Society).*

Correction. New Louisiana strawberry mentioned in column 2, page 52, Vol. 12 No. 4 of Fr. Var. Hort. Dig. should have read "Headliner" instead of "Headline".

Originator of Gem Strawberry Dies

Mr. Frank J. Keplinger, well-known semi-professional plant breeder, died on January 28, 1958. He introduced the important Gem Everbearing strawberry variety in 1933. He used to stop often at the South Haven Experiment Station in Michigan to talk about varieties and breeding methods, and frequently dropped off various seedlings for testing purposes.

Earlihale Peach

Earlihale is a new peach variety released in 1958 jointly by the U. S. D. A. and the State College of Washington. It is a product of self-pollination of Burbank July Elberta, was first selected in 1944 and has been fruiting at Prosser, Washington since 1951.

Fruit of Earliblue ripens with Halehaven, is medium to large and similar in appearance to J. H. Hale. Flesh is yellow, very firm, medium textured, freestone, and good in flavor.

Tree is vigorous and productive and hardy at Prosser. Because it is susceptible to bacterial blight, Earlihale is not recommended for areas where this disease is serious. This variety is pollen sterile and should be planted with other varieties. Its chilling requirement is fairly low, being similar to its parent, Burbank July Elberta.

Information on sources of bud wood can be obtained from H. W. Fogle, Irrigation Experiment Station, Prosser, Washington, or from Leon Havis, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Maryland.

Plan on attending the next annual meeting of the American Pomological Society January 5-7, 1959, in Columbia, Missouri. It is a joint meeting with the Missouri State Horticultural Society, which is celebrating its centennial.