

Two New Early Peaches for the South

Hiland resulted from a cross between Southland and a seedling of Hiley x Halehaven. It resulted from cross-pollinations made in 1945, and fruited first in 1948 at the U. S. Horticultural Field Laboratory, Fort Valley, Georgia.

The *Hiland* ripens a day earlier than the recently named Cardinal, or 5 days earlier than Dixired. The fruit is clingstone, medium-sized, ovate, with very light pubescence. It is attractively colored, with a light-red blush covering about one-half the surface at the shipping-ripe stage. The flesh is yellow, fairly firm, medium-textured, and of good flavor.

Trees of *Hiland* are vigorous and productive. Susceptibility to bacterial spot disease is evidently about the same as Elberta. Blossoms are large-petaled and self-fertile. They usually open shortly after Hiley blossoms open. The chilling requirement to break the rest period of its buds is 750 hours, the same as Hiley, in contrast to 900 hours for Cardinal.

The variety has been tested in Georgia, the Gulf States, and South Carolina. On account of its relatively low chilling requirement, it is recommended for trial planting in the warmer peach regions. Its fruit is not so firm nor quite so attractive as Cardinal, and it should be preferred only where winters are too warm for Cardinal.

Redcap is the result of a cross between Southland and Dixired made at the U. S. Horticultural Field Laboratory, Fort Val-

ley, Georgia, in 1945. It fruited first in 1948.

The *Redcap* ripens a day or two earlier than Dixired and resembles Dixired very closely. The fruit is clingstone, medium-sized (similar to Dixired), round, with light pubescence. About three-fourths of the surface is covered with a bright, attractive red blush. The flesh is yellow, firm but melting, medium-textured, and of good flavor.

The trees of *Redcap* are moderately vigorous and productive. Susceptibility to bacterial spot disease is evidently about the same as with Elberta. The blossoms are small-petaled and self-fertile. They open the same time as Southland. The chilling requirement to break the rest period of its buds is 750 hours, or about the same as Hiley and Southland, in contrast to about 1,000 hours for Dixired.

The variety has been fruited only in Georgia. On account of its low chilling requirement, it should be planted in areas with too little winter chilling for growing Dixired. The peach may be considered a low-chilling substitute for Dixired in such areas.

The Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering has no trees of these two varieties available for distribution. Information on sources of budwood may be obtained from Dr. J. H. Weinberger, U. S. Horticultural Field Laboratory, Fort Valley, Georgia.

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