Leaf Glands of Sunhaven and Richhaven Peach Varieties

Introducers of new peach varieties are often asked for the leaf gland type of the new varieties they have named and released for propagation. Such inquiries have been received at the South Haven Experiment Station regarding the Sunhaven and Richhaven varieties released in 1955.

Sunhaven has small, globose glands (small globes), while Richhaven has the large, reniform (kidney-shaped) type.

While a peach variety cannot be identified by leaf gland type alone, knowing the gland type is helpful in determining if variety mixtures are present in the nursery row or in young orchards before they come into production. If a mixture is present in a young orchard the grower will have to decide whether to take a chance on the mixture being a commercially satisfactory variety, or remove the mixture and replant. If the nurseryman finds mixtures present in the nursery row, they should be destroyed.

Leaf glands are found at the base of the leaf or on the leaf-stalk. Mature leaves are needed for accurate identification of the gland type and more than one examination should be made during the growing season. Several different leaves should be examined each time. In some varieties glands are on the borderline between the two types. These are sometimes called mixed or intermediate glands. Some peaches have glandless leaves. However, such varieties are extremely susceptible to mildew and therefore are usually soon discarded. A small hand lens or reading glass will be very helpful in examing leaf glands.—*Stanley Johnston, Supt., South Haven Experiment Station, South Haven, Michigan.*

Bear River Cherry

Bear River is the local name for an open-pollinated seedling population of sweet cherries found growing in the southwestern end of the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia, particularly in the area around the town of Bear River. The stock was probably introduced by the early settlers from Europe in the 1600's and is now found growing wild as well as in backyard gardens. By selecting the best trees a high quality small sweet cherry has been produced in considerable quantities, but with the introduction of larger fruited varieties, production has decreased to small proportions. Enough trees have been grown in the past to support an annual cherry festival.

The cherry is not a true pomological clone in the strict sense, as it is quite variable. Its chief attribute is winter hardiness, particularly of the tree, and we are using it at Kentville in our breeding program for sweet cherries. The fruit is small, black, soft, and of little commercial value in areas where better sweet cherry varieties can be grown, although the quality is very good.

We have propagated some of the best selections from the standpoint of fruit size and quality and tree hardiness, here at Kentville for evaluation purposes. The virus status of the trees has not been determined.—*C. J. Bishop, Superintendent, Experimental Farm, Kentville, Nova Scotia.*

As a result of strawberry variety tests carried on in 1956 and 1957 at the Delta Branch Experiment Station at Stoneville, Mississippi, W. W. Watson recommends the following varieties for both home gardeners and growers in the Delta region: Dixieland, Albritton, Pocahontas and Blakemore.