

The Ranger Peach

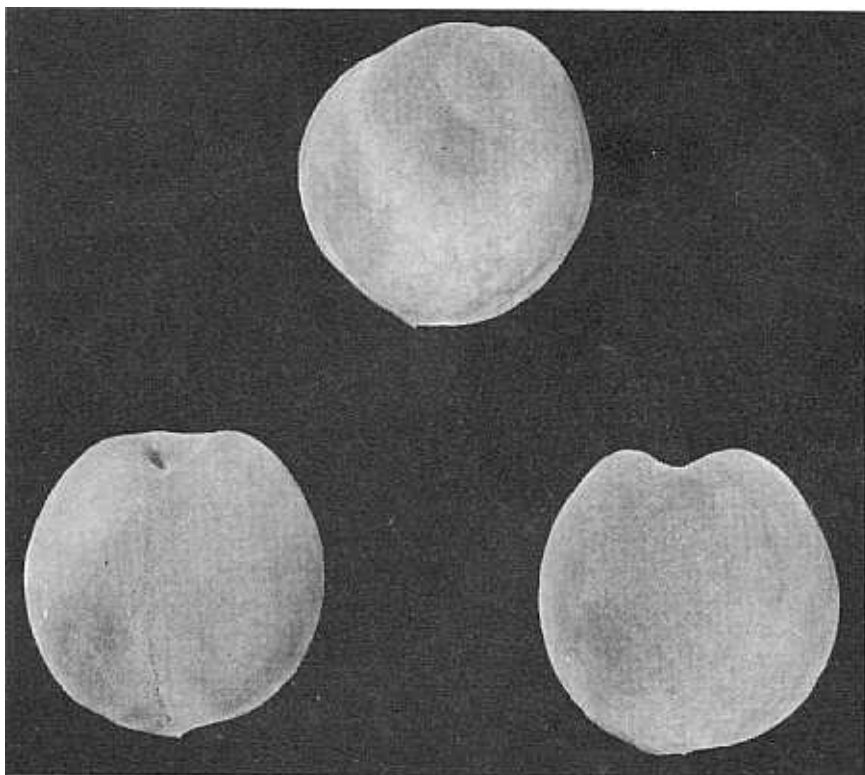
Ranger is a seedling of Raritan Rose selfed. The parent was selfed in 1940 in the breeding investigations conducted at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Maryland. The seedling was selected as a promising one in 1944, when it was propagated, and has been tested in several areas since then.

Ranger ripens about with Golden Jubilee, or approximately 3 weeks earlier than Elberta. The fruit is a freestone, medium to large sized (usually larger than Golden Jubilee), almost round, with light pubescence. At maturity one-half to three-fourths of the skin surface is covered with a red blush over a yellow ground color. The flesh is yellow, medium-firm,

medium textured, and of good flavor. It has been noted that the fruit is round in shape in the more southern peach sections, whereas it is sometimes slightly "pear-shaped" in the more northern peach sections. The fruit usually is rated "good" but not "excellent" for both freezing and canning purposes.

The trees of the *Ranger* are productive and vigorous. The blossoms are medium-sized, self-fertile, and usually open shortly after those of Elberta. The chilling requirement to break the rest period of the buds seems slightly more than with Elberta.

This new variety has had limited testing in Maryland, South Carolina, Georgia,



Ranger, a peach resistant to bacterial spot, ripens about with Golden Jubilee.

Texas, West Virginia, and Delaware. Its most outstanding characteristic is its relative bacterial spot resistance, and the name "*Ranger*" suggests orchard protection. Although *Ranger* is not completely immune to the disease, it is a yellow-fruited variety which has been similar in resistance to such white-fleshed varieties as Hiley and Raritan Rose. The variety should be most successful in the midsouthern peach sections where bacterial spot is often a serious problem, and where moderately high chilling requirement and late blooming are desirable. The variety should be well suited to local markets as well as moderate distance shipments.

The Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering has no trees of this variety available for distribution. Information on sources of a limited amount of budwood may be obtained from Leon Havis, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Maryland.—U.S.D.A. news release, May 8, 1952.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Trees of *Ranger* are available in limited quantities now from a few southern nurseries.

The Beaver Strawberry in Wisconsin

During the summer of 1952, Harvey Kamnetz, located at Cumberland, in the northwestern part of Wisconsin, took yield records on the Beaver, Robinson and Premier strawberry varieties. All rows were four feet apart, and the plants were spaced 32 inches in the row. The soil in which the plants were grown was a gravelly-sandy loam. Each variety was side-dressed with 5-20-20 fertilizer in June and ammonium nitrate during the last week in August in 1951, the year the plants were set.

Fifteen hundred Beaver plants produced at the rate of 134 quarts per 100 plants; 250 Premier plants produced 104

quarts per 100 plants; and 250 Robinson plants produced 57 quarts per 100 plants. The Beavers produced eight pickings in 1952, Premier—six, and Robinson—five.

The Beaver berries were superior in quality to those of both Premier and Robinson. The Beaver did not soften with numerous drenching rains, and its size held up well throughout the season. The pickers preferred to pick the Beavers and they brought premium market prices.

H. J. Ramlow, of Madison, Wisconsin, points out that Mr. Kamnetz' experience with the Beaver strawberry is in line with that of other growers in this section of the state. The Beaver was originated at Eau Claire and has been a leading variety for many years at Warréns, Sparta and Alma Center. It seems to be well adapted to the soil and climate of this area. This does not seem to be true in the eastern sections of the state, especially on heavy or high lime soils.

—From Wisconsin Horticulture,
Jan., 1953.

Planting Trees

To-day six slender fruit trees stand
Where yesterday were none;
They have been planted by my hand,
And they shall dazzle in the sun
When all my springs are done.

Two apples shall unfold their rose,
Two cherries their snow, two pears;
And fruit shall hang where blossom
blows
When I am gone from these sweet airs
To where none living cares.

My heart is glad, my heart is high
With sudden ecstasy!
I have given back, before I die,
Some thanks for every lovely tree
That dead men grew for me.

—V. H. Friedlaender.