

peach trees of the varieties mentioned growing on Western Sand Cherry rootstock have become typical dwarf trees with healthy dark green foliage. They started to bear fruit of normal size the second to third year after transplanting to the orchard.

Peach trees in their seventh year in an orchard location are from 5 to 6 feet tall and during the past season produced from one to two 12-quart baskets of fruit per tree.

The dwarfing effect with plum and prune trees has been similar to that of peach trees. Italian as well as Stanley prune trees on Western Sand Cherry rootstocks are one-third the size of trees on Myrobalan rootstocks grown for comparison. Bearing started first with Stanley 2 years after planting, followed by Italian Prune and Beauty and Pacific plums.

Maximum yields the seventh year after planting reached a full 12-quart basket for Stanley and with Italian Prune and Beauty plum, a half basket on the average. The Pacific plum averaged 2 pounds per tree in 1952, while the trees of Pearl have so far borne only a few fruits annually.

Not Suited to Cherries

Tests carried on at Geneva show that the Western Sand Cherry is not a satisfactory dwarfing rootstock for either sweet or sour cherry varieties. Of three varieties tried, buds of Montmorency and Black Tartarian failed to unite with this stock.

Windsor buds did unite but failed to grow.

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Coronet - A New, Early, Yellow-fleshed Peach for the South

The United States Department of Agriculture has just released the new Coronet peach. Coronet is the result of a cross between a seedling of Halehaven selfed (FV5-56) and Dixigem, made in 1945 at the U. S. Horticultural Field Lab., Fort Valley, Georgia.

The Coronet ripens two or three days earlier than Dixigem and about four days earlier than Redhaven. The fruit is medium-sized, ovate, with very light pubescence. About three-fourths of the surface is covered with a bright, attractive red blush over a yellow ground color. The flesh is yellow, firm but melting, smooth-textured, and of good but mild flavor. It tends to cling at the pit when not fully mature, but is near-freestone when fully ripe, resembling Redhaven and Dixigem in this respect.

Trees of Coronet are vigorous and pro-

ductive. Susceptibility to bacterial spot disease is evidently about the same as Elberta. The blossoms are small-petaled and self-fertile and they usually open shortly after those of Hiley. The chilling requirement to break the rest period of the buds is slightly higher than Hiley and less than Elberta, or about 800 hours.

The variety has been fruited at experiment stations in most of the southern states and in commercial orchards in Georgia. Since the fruit is firmer, more highly colored, and slightly earlier in ripening than Dixigem, it is recommended for trial planting to replace the latter variety.

Information on sources of budwood may be obtained from Dr. J. H. Weinberger, U. S. Horticultural Field Laboratory, Fort Valley, Georgia.