

The Maygold Peach for the Deep South

Maygold is a new early peach introduced by the U.S.D.A. in May, 1953. It is the result of a cross between Sun-high and Southland made at the U. S. Horticultural Field Laboratory, Fort Valley, Georgia in 1945.

Maygold ripens about three 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 half the surface, and an attractive yellow ground color. The flesh is yellow, firm but melting, medium-textured, and of good flavor.

Trees of Maygold are vigorous and productive. Leaves and fruit are subject to bacterial spot disease, and the variety should not be planted on sandy, unfertile soils on this account. Blossoms are small-petaled and self-fertile.

The outstanding characteristic of Maygold is the relatively low chilling requirement to break the rest period of its buds. It requires about 650 hours below 45° F. by February 15 for normal development. This is 100 hours less than the Hiley and Redcap varieties require. At Fort Valley,

Maygold has blossomed 2 to 15 days earlier than Hiley, and as much as 5 weeks earlier than Elberta. Maygold has been fruitful in several southern localities following winters when the mean temperatures for December and January averaged no higher than 54° F., but was not productive following warmer winters.

In fruit characters, Maygold is not superior to Redcap and Dixired, which ripen in the same season. Thus, the Maygold should be planted only where winters are too warm for Redcap and Dixired, but where at least 600 hours of chilling may be expected. It is recommended for trial plantings in the area from Montezuma, Georgia, southward to Quincy, Florida, and in similar areas in other southern states where December and January are warm months, but where temperatures averaging below 54° F. may be expected.

The variety has been fruited in Georgia, west Florida, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Information on sources of budwood may be obtained from Dr. J. H. Weinberger, U. S. Horticultural Field Laboratory, Fort Valley, Georgia.

Fruit Varieties in Utah

by

GENE H. OBERLY, Extension Horticulturist Logan, Utah

The following report is an attempt to present a picture of the fruit variety situation in Utah as it appears to me at present.

Let me begin with peaches. Most of our growers are continuing to plant the standard varieties such as J. H. Hale, Elberta and some of the Early Elberta types. However, after viewing the newer varieties at the Station, several growers are planting a few of these varieties. We

should have more information on peach varieties in four or five years from now.

As for apples, our growers are beginning to plant red sports of Jonathan and Delicious. They are finding Jonathan to be a good variety because the market for it is good and because it has not been troubled with mildew in this state.

We have not found a good variety of apricot as yet, and some still plant the Wenatchee, Moorpark and Early Mont-