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 Sunhigh 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

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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-

gamete. We have several varieties under test and hope that we will find one that is superior to those now being grown.

Bartlett is still our standard pear and we are continuing to recommend it. Many are using Anjou for pollinators.

At present the raspberry most generally planted is New Washington. Apparently it is either resistant to our virus diseases or has as yet not become infected with a virus. At any rate, it has not shown any virus symptoms up to date. Growers are quite happy with the fruit size, color and production of New Washington, so it looks very promising.

We have had more new varieties of strawberries than of any other fruit. Some that look especially promising under Utah conditions are Scarlet Beauty, Robinson, 20th Century and Utah Centennial—an everbearer. Then too, there is a host of varieties bred by Mr. Lee Larsen at Brigham City, Utah, the principle ones being Lindalicious, Utah Shipper, Can All, and one that I think has a great future, Arch Red. Mr. Larsen has not released many plants of the latter variety, but he himself has a five acre field of Arch Red which has outyielded anything we have had to date. It is also an excellent berry for freezing. Arch Red produces large berries and maintains this size throughout the picking season.

Pocahontas, a Midseason Strawberry for Southern States

In October, 1953, the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering and the Virginia Truck Experiment Station released the strawberry variety Pocahontas, formerly tested as US-3745. This strawberry originated as a seedling from the cross Tennessee Shipper x Midland. It was grown from seed at Beltsville, Maryland, in 1947, and selected during the fruiting season of 1948.

The ripening season of Pocahontas is about a week later than that of Blakemore. The berries are large in size and maintain this size throughout the picking season. The color of the berries is a bright to vivid red, a little deeper red than Blakemore. The fruit are glossy, have a tough skin, are about as firm as those of Blakemore, and the "seeds" are slightly sunken. They are fairly uniform in shape, and have a flavor that is tart and good.

The plants of Pocahontas are vigorous, productive, and have shown no yellow variegation, but are not resistant to red stele. From Washington, D. C., to Norfolk, Virginia, yields of Pocahontas have been better than those of most varieties. In replicated plantings at Beltsville, Maryland, its yields for 1951 and 1952 averaged 474 twenty four quart crates per acre, much more than Blakemore. In a test for the frozen package trade, it has rated high in color, texture and flavor.

The Pocahontas has been tested from New Jersey to North Carolina and west to Arkansas. It is most promising in the Norfolk area of Virginia. Pocahontas is well adapted to fall planting in eastern Virginia, where it produces a satisfactory crop of fruit in the spring on fall-set plants. It also appears to be widely adapted throughout the south-central United States.

Although plants of Pocahontas are not available from either of the originating organizations, they are available from cooperating nurseries.