Garnet Beauty — An Early Mutation of Redhaven Peach

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An early maturing yellow-fleshed mutation of Redhaven was discovered by Mr. Garnet Bruner in his own orchard at Ruthven, Ontario, Canada in the summer of 1951. The mutating branch was brought to the attention of nurseryman and fruit grower of Ruthven, Mr. George Whaley, in 1954 who suggested that the author be consulted. An examination of the numerous fruits on the mutating branch showed that the mutation was a sectorial chimera with desirable fruits on shoots emerging from a narrow strip on the branch and off-type fruits from either side. Fruit appearance varied widely amongst the off-type samples because of maturity differences and shape abnormalities. Off-shaped fruits were invariably clingstone and did not ripen uniformly, whereas desirable fruits differed little from the parent Redhaven fruit. It was decided to call the variety Garnet Beauty.

Buds taken from shoots associated with desirable fruits were top-worked and budded at Harrow and Ruthven. Twenty-five separate clones, either as branches or trees, bore fruit in 1957 and these were checked for any tendency to produce undesirable or late maturing fruits. Nineteen clones were discarded and six selected for further observation to ensure that the mutation was of a stable nature. The two separate testing locations resulted in some differences in ripening dates in both 1957 and 1958, but fruit type was essentially the same throughout. It was decided to propagate in quantity in the summer of 1958. Trees with desirable fruits ripened about 10 days in advance of Redhaven in the third year and with, or slightly after, Cardinal.

The fruit of Garnet Beauty is medium-sized to large, oval in cross-section with very little pubescence. More than half the surface is covered with a bright attractive red over a yellow ground colour. The flesh is yel-

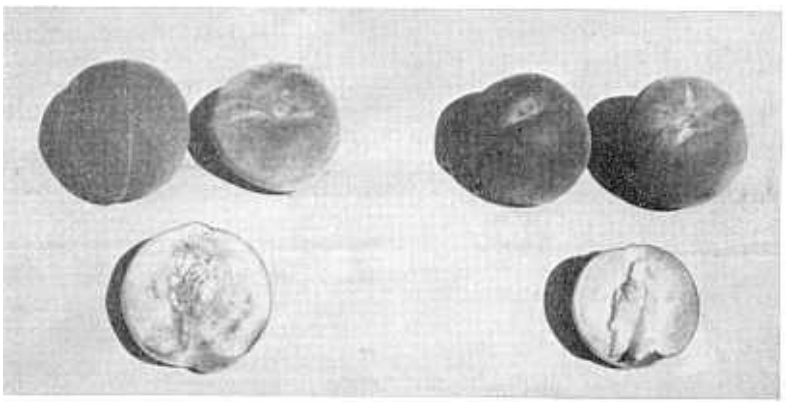

Figure 1. **The desirable peach mutation Garnet Beauty on left, compared in three different views, with the Cardinal variety, on right.**

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low, streaked with red, firm but melting and of excellent flavor. The variety is freestone when fully mature and will hang on the tree until over-ripe. It does not soften prematurely on suture, apex or shoulder and retains its brightness longer than Cardinal or Dixired.

Trees of Garnet Beauty are above average in vigor and, in their third year have produced heavy crops of fruit which size up and color well inside the tree. The variety is slightly susceptible to bacterial spot *Xanthomonas pruni,* to the same degree as Redhaven. The blossoms are small-petaled, self-fertile and open with Redhaven. Garnet Beauty may ripen with Stark's Earliglo, also an early ripening mutation of Redhaven, found recently in a southern Ontario orchard.

Because Garnet Beauty appears to possess the attractiveness, quality and firmness of Redhaven and is earlier than that variety, it is recommended for trial planting in southwestern Ontario. Mr. G. Whaley, Ruthven, Ontario has sole propagating rights for the present, and may have trees available in the spring of 1960.

Exotic, a New Vinifera Grape Variety

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The Crops Research Division of the Agricultural Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture has released for propagation the vinifera grape variety Exotic, formerly tested as selection G8–30. Exotic resulted from a cross between the varieties Flame Tokay and Ribier (Alphonse Lavallee) made at Fresno, California, in 1947.

Exotic should fill a definite need as a medium-early black shipping grape. It ripens a week to 10 days later than the Cardinal variety, and about 2 weeks earlier than Ribier. The berries, carrying abundant bluish bloom, are spherical in shape, medium-large, firm, crisp and of good quality. The natural cluster is too large, but with one thinning cut it is transformed into an ideal market type. Clusters are well-filled but not compact, and the berries are strongly attached to the stem. The shipping quality and market acceptance has been good.

The blossoms are self-fertile with upright stamens. Seeds are of medium size, usually 3 per berry. The leaves are large and deeply-lobed with pointed leaf serration-series ranging in size from small to large. The vines are vigorous and productive. While the best type of pruning has not been determined, cordon-trained vines have been satisfactory.

The variety has been mainly tested at Phoenix, Arizona, and Fresno, California. At the U. S. Horticultural Field Station at Fresno there has been an objectionable tendency for some of the berries to develop a slight crack on the blossom end, thus making the selection of questionable value for that area pending further trials. This defect has not appeared in Arizona tests, and the variety has been introduced on the basis of its adaptability to Arizona conditions.

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