New Peach Varieties in Ontario

O. A. BRADT
Vineland Station, Ontario

There has been a considerable change taking place in peach varieties over the last 25 or 30 years. In Ontario, the Elberta at one time made up approximately 80 per cent of the planting, which meant a production peak over a short period in September. Now the season is spread over a much longer period, from Erlyvee, ripening during the last week in July, to Vesper which ripens in late September to early October. The trend in new varieties has been toward those with fruit of a high color similar to Redhaven.

In order of ripening, the following are new varieties or those that are attracting particular attention at the present time in Ontario.

Erlyvee—The first yellow-fleshed peach, ripening at the end of the Mayflower season, in the latter part of July. Should be considered only for local markets. Is small in size and has such a tender skin that it requires special handling. Because of its attractive color and earliness, it has proved profitable when well grown. Semi-free.

Somervee—Ripens three to four days after Erlyvee. Is a little larger than Erlyvee, and has a tougher skin. Is definitely a cling, sometimes being hard and green at the center. Has good appearance and fair quality for an early peach. Takes the place of Mikado.

Dixired—Ripens with Marigold, but has a bright, solid red color. May size up a little better than Marigold. Has been a little slow to come into bearing. Its bud hardiness has not been determined. Semi-free.

Goldray—A bud sport of Golden Jubilee, and very similar to that variety in many respects. Ripens three to five days before Redhaven. Is not entirely freestone, but is more free than most varieties of its season.

39021, 39041, 39082—Three Vineland selections ripening a week before Redhaven. All three have size and show considerable promise for this season. Further tests are necessary. Each one is semi-freestone.

Jerseyland—Ripens just ahead of Redhaven. Has a solid red color, but turns rather dark as it matures. It tends to be larger than Redhaven. Is usually finished before Jubilee starts.

Redhaven—Hardly a new variety but is being widely planted. Colors ten days before ripe, so that it may be picked immature and cause consumer dissatisfaction.

Envoy (N.J. 102)—This New Jersey variety has borne good crops of medium large, globular, well-colored, attractive fruit of good quality. Is yellow-fleshed and freestone. Ripens two or three days after Golden Jubilee.

Fairhaven—Ripens between Envoy and Vedette. Large, good looking, with firm texture, good quality. Freestone only when fully mature.

July Elberta—Receiving considerable publicity because of reported canner acceptance. Not a new variety, it has proved to be a dependable bearer of good-sized fruit. May need heavy thinning in some years.

Southland—A new variety from Georgia that ripens with Veteran. Has size and appearance and seems productive. Freestone. Promising if buds prove hardy.

Loring—A new variety from Missouri that ripens with Southland. Is

brighter in color than the latter, has size, but may be a little stringy. Freestone.

Kalhaven—For the basket trade, Kalhaven is probably the best at the present time for the season between Veteran and Elberta. Has good color and will size up when well thinned. May cling slightly in some seasons.

McGuigan—As a processing peach in its season, it is proving satisfactory in some cases. Produces well. Fruit has a bright yellow ground color. Lacks quality for dessert purposes, but cans reasonably well. Drops readily when ripe. Freestone.

Victory—Although the tree is somewhat dwarfed, it produces heavy crops of well-colored fruit which ripen a day or two before Elberta. Hangs on better than Elberta. Freestone.

Redskin—Has better quality than Elberta in most seasons. Did not color up quite as well in 1953 as in 1952, probably due to cool weather. Ripens a day or two before Elberta. Freestone.

Vesper—Ripens at the end of the Elberta season. Has size, color and quality for its season, but the tree is only medium in vigor. Is quite subject to bacterial spot. Freestone.

Cherry Breeding at the California Station

REID M. BROOKS
Davis, California

Sweet cherry breeding carried on by the Department of Pomology at the California Agricultural Experiment Station at Davis is concerned primarily with two main objectives. The first is the development of early-maturing varieties which are needed to replace such varieties as Chapman, Burbank, and, especially, Black Tartarian—all of which have serious commercial faults. In addition, it would be desirable for the new variety to be able to successfully pollinate the triumvirate of Bing, Napoleon, and Lambert, which accounts for the main commercial production.

The second main objective is the development of white-fleshed cherries that will not produce doubles in the interior valleys of California, and will be suitable for canning and brining; in other words, replacements for Napoleon are needed.

The cherry breeding project was started in 1935 at the suggestion of Dr. Warren P. Tufts, Chairman of the Department of Pomology of the University of California. Professor Guy L. Philp carried on the work until his death in 1947. The early hybridization work involved crosses between a number of the old, well-established, standard sorts. An outstanding seedling from these is Selection 46 which resulted from Lambert x Bush Tartarian. It filled the requirements of a new variety with one exception; it cracked badly in humid weather. This precluded its commercial release, although several acres were planted in California by 1946. One cross in particular, Bing x Bush Tartarian, gave rise to excellent seedlings, Selections 52, 55, 56, and 101—all dark-fleshed and large. These were propagated for evaluation in the commercial cherry districts by Professor Philp and are just now coming into bearing.

The second large planting of seedlings (approximately 700) was made in