The Sunapee Peach*

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A new hardy, yellow, freestone variety of peach named Sunapee has just been introduced by the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station. Sunapee resulted from a cross between Oriole and a hardy, white-fleshed peach from Europe. Oriole, the female parent, has consistently been the hardiest variety grown in southern New Hampshire. The pollen parent was a selected, hardy seedling grown by the United States Department of Agriculture at Glendale, Maryland from seed collected in the northern Caucasus (P.I. No. 104315).

Open-pollinated seeds were saved from the first generation of this cross, and a second generation of seedlings was grown to fruiting age. From among these, a seedling having an attractive oval yellow fruit that ripens the last week in August was selected for further observation, and was assigned the number NH#W–1.

Following the test winter of 1951–52, when all tender varieties suffered a complete crop loss, NH#W–1 produced a commercial crop. Hardiness of the new seedling seemed at least equal to Oriole. The hardiness rating for NH#W–1 will depend on its record following cold winters at a number of widely separated places. For this purpose, some young budded trees of NH#W–1 have been distributed.

This new variety was given the name Sunapee so that it may be propagated rapidly without restrictions. The edible quality of the fresh fruit of Sunapee is good, and the home-canned product has an excellent flavor. Sunapee deserves wide testing as a promising, hardy, yellow, freestone peach for planting in those areas at the northern-most limits for peach culture.

Budwood may be obtained from the Department of Horticulture of the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station at Durham and from several cooperating growers.

The Keystone Peach

The Keystone peach, recently released by the United States Department of Agriculture, is the product of a cross between Newday and Southland.

Keystone ripens with Early Hiley, or 3 to 3½ weeks ahead of Elberta. The fruit attains about the same size as that of its parents, Newday and Southland. It is round, has a slight pubescence, and a light, attractive red blush over a bright golden ground color. The flesh is yellow, firm, smooth-textured and of good flavor. The pit is nearly free.

The tree of Keystone is vigorous and seems to be productive. It has shown less bacterial spot than Southland and Elberta. Its chilling requirement places it in the 750-hour group with Southland.

Since this variety has had only a very limited trial, it is recommended as a commercial shipping variety only on a trial basis.

Information on sources of budwood may be obtained from the United States Horticultural Field Laboratory, Fort Valley, Georgia.

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