

a unique, desirable and practical one since Virginia has contributed six of her sons to the highest office in our land. The name of George Washington seemed a most appropriate one to assign to this first new variety of peach developed through the research efforts of the State that gave him to the Nation.

The fruit of Washington (See Fig. 1) ripens at Blacksburg about 21 days before Elberta and three days before Sunhigh. The fruits are round-ovate with slightly unequal halves, and may have a very slight tip some seasons. The skin has a bright yellow ground color and usually about three-fourths medium to bright red overcolor. The skin pubescence is short. Fruit size of Washington has been above average, approaching that of Sunhigh, even when it has a full crop of fruit. The flesh is orange-yellow with bright red at the pit, and is fully freestone. The flesh is medium to fine texture and very firm for a freestone peach. The flavor resembles that of Sunhigh but is slightly more acid and has a slight bitterness suggestive of its V.P.I.-15 parent. Fruit grown at Blacksburg has been rated as very close to that of Sunhigh in quality. The fruit ripens uniformly and hangs well, even after becoming eating-ripe.

The tree grows vigorously in the nursery and in the orchard. The bud-set on the twigs is much heavier than that of Sunhigh and comparable to that of Halehaven. The blossoms are showy and have good pollen. Brown rot control on Washington has presented no problem at Blacksburg. No studies of chilling requirements were conducted, since that problem does not exist in Virginia. It appears, likely, however, that Washington has a high chilling requirement.

Trees of Washington were distributed as Selection No. V.P.I.-49 to 18

agricultural experiment stations in the United States and Canada and to 31 growers in Virginia in 1956, 1957 and 1958. Trees are available from two commercial nurseries.



Suncrest Peach

The peach variety Suncrest has recently been introduced by the U.S.D.A. Suncrest resulted from the pollination of the variety Alamar with Gold Dust at the U.S. Horticultural Field Station, Fresno, California in 1952. It fruited first in 1956. Suncrest has been tested by growers throughout the San Joaquin Valley of California and to a limited extent by the U.S.D.A. in the east.

Suncrest ripens about ten days before Elberta. The fruit is large, round and freestone, and has light pubescence. It is two-thirds covered with a bright attractive red blush over a yellow ground color. The flesh is yellow, firm but melting, and of good texture and flavor. It has been shipped successfully as far east as West Virginia with satisfactory market acceptance.

Trees of Suncrest are vigorous, productive, and require thinning. Blossoms are large-petaled and self-fertile, opening with Elberta. Leaf glands are uniform. At Beltsville, Maryland, Suncrest has been susceptible to bacterial spot.

Although no trees of Suncrest are available, information on sources of budwood may be obtained from J. H. Weinberger, U. S. Horticultural Field Station, 2021 S. Peach Avenue, Fresno 2, California.



There are reports from Virginia growers that Vance Delicious, which colors 7 to 10 days before standard Delicious, does not appear to darken as much as Richared in Virginia.