

Letters From Here and There

PEACHES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Dear Sir:

So now to business. Westbank is on the very fringe of peach growing in the Okanagan Valley. With somewhat shallow soils on the benches, and satisfactory summer heat, stone fruits, mostly peaches and prunes, seem better adapted than apples. But our winter temperatures run from two to five degrees lower than the more favored spots, and a crop loss occurs about one year in five. It's a good gamble, though. With a total rainfall of only ten inches annually, of which a negligible amount falls in July and August, fungus diseases are no worry, nor, at this time, insect pests. Peaches are given a single lime-sulphur spray in the spring for twig borer and leaf curl. Oriental fruit moth is not here yet, nor wanted. Peach mosaic has been found, but is under control, if not eradicated. Practically all we have to do is thin our peaches, irrigate and pick and pack and sell them.

In fishing for information, I am really looking for several things. As a commercial grower, I like to know what is doing in other parts.

Peach Varieties

There are other faults than tenderness in our midseason sorts, largely Vedette, Valiant and Veteran. They have considerable red about the pit, and tend to clinginess in unfavorable seasons, both of which conditions are disliked by our commercial canners. Golden Jubilee was the only early peach to be perfectly free last summer, and the late sorts were ill-flavored. In Elberta the accented bitterness are quite objectionable. Rochester, of our

present sorts, would get the highest marks for quality and general dependability, but it needs a shave badly, and is seldom freestone. Commercially, our present wants in peaches are for firm-fleshed, pure yellow freestones, ranging from pre-Rochester to Elberta maturities. I doubt whether, under our conditions, a high quality peach can be grown much before the Rochester season. Many early varieties have been tried throughout the Valley, but none has found favor with both grower and user. Oriole, Fisher and Golden Jubilee are sparsely planted; Fisher seemed the most promising, but one propagation of this variety gave bumpy, worthless fruit, and this has discouraged its further planting.

The Perfect Peach

When the perfect peach comes along, it will have a firm-textured flesh, not quite so firm as the J. H. Hale; the flavor of a Late Crawford; it will be as sleek as Candoka; big enough to fill the stomach of a ten-year old boy. The tree will be vigorous, the fruit set never need thinning, and it could be grown in Alaska. Think what Starks' would do in advertising it! Even at that, somebody would try to improve it.

L. M. Howlett

Westbank, B. C., Canada

ROCHESTER PEACH

Dear Sir:

Soil conditions govern the value of Rochester. For example, around Clyde, Ohio, on our sandy soil it is O.K., in Ottawa County on heavy soil it doesn't do well at all. It seems as though you cannot get size on heavy soil.

Clyde, Ohio
Don Byers