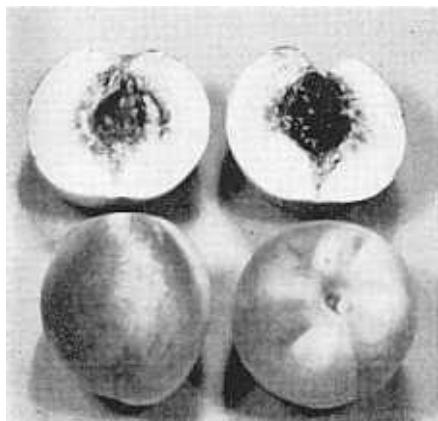


The Jefferson Peach

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The second member of Virginia's "Presidential Series" of peach varieties was named and released by the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station of Virginia Polytechnic Institute on August 1, 1960. This new variety was given the name Jefferson, in honor of Thomas Jefferson, Virginia's second contribution to the Presidency of our Nation. The name selected is in accordance with the plan suggested by Director H. N. Young of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, that new varieties of peaches developed in Virginia be named after Virginians who were elected President of the United States.



Fruit of the frost-resistant, freestone Jefferson peach.

The Jefferson peach is a yellow fleshed, freestone variety that ripens two or three days after Elberta. It was developed by crossing J. H. Hale with Valiant. The seedling selected for the

name Jefferson first attracted attention in 1950, when it bore a full crop of fruit in spite of severe frost damage during the blossoming season which destroyed the crops on most of the commercial varieties of peaches under test in the Virginia Polytechnic Institute testing orchards. It performed in a similar manner in 1955 and in 1957, both of which were years of severe frost damage to peaches at Blacksburg and elsewhere in Virginia. The tree had already been selected for further testing because of the size and attractive color of the fruits, its firmness of flesh, desirable texture, good flavor and above average quality. Its fruit characters compare favorably with those of its J. H. Hale parent, but its tree characters are much more desirable in that Jefferson is more vigorous, its buds are more tolerant to freezes and frosts, the flowers are self fruitful, and the fruits appear to be much less susceptible to brown rot infection.

Trees of Jefferson are available from a number of commercial nurseries. Buds are available from the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station.



The Beauty plum is highly recommended for Arizona by L. Burkhart, of the University of Arizona. He suggests Santa Rosa and Climax as pollinizers for Beauty. Also mentioned are Hollywood, Mariposa, Duart and Kelsey.

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