

MADISON PEACH

Young of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station that new peach varieties produced by the V.P.I. fruit breeding program be named after Virginians who became President of the United States.

The fruits of Madison ripen at Blacksburg about August 18, or an average of seven days before Elberta, on the basis of eight consecutive crops from 1955 through 1962. The tree is of average vigor. It produces a very heavy set of fruit buds. The blossoms are of the semi-showy type. They produce good pollen and are self-fruitful. The leaf glands are of the reniform type.

Representative fruits have averaged 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ " in diameter through eight consecutive crop years. The skin is highly colored with about two-thirds bright red over a bright, orange-yellow ground color. The skin pubescence is very short, and the fruit have been rated as much above average in attractiveness. The flesh is bright, orange-yellow, with attractive contrasting pinkish-red adjacent to the pit. The fruits have been fully freestone during the eight seasons of production. The flesh has been rated as the most firm of any of the freestone varieties and selections under test at Blacksburg. It has fine texture and is remarkably free from stringiness. The flavor is mild and rich, with considerable resemblance to its Redhaven parent. Its quality has been rated to be about as good as Redhaven.

Trees of Madison will be available from a number of commercial nurseries for the 1964 planting season.

Reports from 1963 Amherst Meeting of American Society for Horticultural Science

Pear Heredity: Pear breeding experiments by Quentin Zielinski, at Oregon State University, indicate that seedlings carrying the red color gene transmitted by the Red Bartlett flower, tend to be more precocious than seedlings without this gene.

Fruit Pollen Storage: Y. K. Choi and Catherine Bailey, of Rutgers University, reported that apple, pear, peach, apricot and grape pollen stored best at -20° C and 50% rel. humidity.

Red Stele Resistance in Strawberry: After screening some 30,000 strawberry seedlings, Hugh A. Daubeny, of Aggasiz, B. C., concluded that the Yaquina clone of *Fragaria chiloensis* was the most effective parent for transmission of resistance to a composite of races of red stele (*Phytophthora fragariae*). Auchincruive 6 is also of some value in breeding for resistance to this fungus. Sparkle was among the poorer parents.

Raspberry Incompatibility: Chester C. Zych, of the University of Illinois, reporting on pollination studies with raspberries, stated that, under greenhouse conditions, combinations of red x black and purple x black raspberries were all incompatible. He also observed partial incompatibility in red x purple, purple x purple, and purple selfed.—G. M. Kessler