

Southwestern Growers Appraise Apple And Peach Varieties

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Not many people realize that in the great Southwest there is a young but flourishing tree fruit industry. While the areas involved are not large, they include portions of several irrigated valleys. These are in the main devoted to intensive vegetable crops but that does not prevent a reasonable acreage of deciduous tree fruits.

The apple and peach variety list in Arizona and New Mexico reads much like that of other fruit districts. Most of the growers apparently moved to the Southwest from eastern and middlewestern states. There are no distinctive or local varieties being grown such as we often find in the extreme North or South where the cold or heat tolerance is a factor. Instead, the varieties could constitute a "national" list were all states of the Union to be averaged together.

Red strains of apple varieties are preferred over the standard types. Annual bearing varieties outrank those which tend to be biennial.

The following list of apple varieties was selected for future planting by Arizona and New Mexico growers:

Delicious (Red trains preferred)
Golden Delicious
Jonathan and red strains
Rome
Stayman (and Staymared)

The largest acreage would be devoted to Red Delicious and Rome with 43% and 31% respectively in the case of New Mexico. For discard, the Ben Davis leads the list followed by Gano, King David, Winesap, and Missouri Pippin.

Peach varieties selected for future plantings in the Southwest were as follows:

Champion
July Elberta
Early Elberta (Gleason)
Elberta
J. H. Hale or Halberta
Rio Oso Gem

Peach varieties listed for discard included Alton, Babcock, Belle of Georgia, Carman, Early Rose, Early Wheeler (Red Bird), Hale Early, Heath Cling, Mayflower, and Mikado (June Elberta).

NOTE: A national summary of the variety appraisal data on apples and peaches is now being prepared and will be published in the next or winter issue of FRUIT VARIETIES. Less than a half dozen states have yet to be heard from but it is hoped the list will be complete by that time.