

Peach and Nectarine Variety Performance in Kentucky

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Aware of the desirability of replacing some of older standard peach varieties, we planted and/or top-worked some 10 to 40 trees of a number of promising varieties released by plant breeders, about two years ago. In order to get as much information as possible from these young trees in 1966, one half of the fruit of each variety were picked firm-ripe for truck shipment; the second picking was made one week later; and the last fruit were picked soft-ripe for the orchard freezer trade. Harvest dates of each picking were recorded, taking into account that these two-year top-worked trees and three-year trees were ripening five to seven days later than fruit from mature trees were likely to ripen.

Glohaven—looks promising as a replacement for Richhaven. It may be the most important release since Redhaven. Sized exceptionally well.

Fruit is nearly round. Color is a brilliant red changing to bright velvet with a deep yellow ground color. Flesh is very firm, clear yellow, resistant to browning. Makes a beautiful frozen product. Buds appear hardy to low temperatures and spring frost. Hangs to tree long after becoming soft-ripe.

That important week-before-Elberta season is sure to bring on a battle royal among several important varieties.

Cresthaven—has many of the good qualities of Redhaven, to which it is closely related. Flesh is firm and very resistant to browning. Color is an attractive red. Shows quite a lot of

red around the pit, but was well received by the freezing trade. Hangs well when mature. Buds appear above average in hardiness. Sized well when thinned early and thoroughly.

Madison—is a bright, mottled red, attractive peach with a good yellow color. Needs very early, heavy thinning. Seems bud hardy. Good fruit size and quality. Has a tendency to drop badly when fully ripe. A very good peach traveling in fast company.

Olinda—is a Canadian variety we've been growing for several years. Good fruit size and quality. Is firm, and has excellent color. Resistant to browning. Has considerable redness at the pit. Hangs on the tree well. Is productive, but is susceptible to leaf spot. Overlaps first part of the Red-skin season.

Blake—A beautiful peach that hangs well; however, it is a weak tree with very tender buds. Grades badly. We are eliminating it after years of testing.

Merrill Fortyniner—A large, very attractive peach. One of the best in quality of the varieties tested; but is quite tender in bud, and subject to bacterial spot. Needs further testing.

Kalhaven—A good old variety that is gaining in popularity in other areas, but has not shown desirable quality in our orchards.

Solo—One of the most beautiful peaches we have ever grown. Clings well, and is non-browning. Is completely self-sterile, but sets fruit for us under very unfavorable pink and full bloom conditions. Should be tested more.

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Turning to other seasons, we fruited the following for several years:

Garnet Beauty—A sport of Redhaven that ripens 10 days earlier. A freestone with excellent fruit quality.

Commanche—A large, yellow freestone of good quality that ripens in Redhaven season. Fruit hangs well. Is bud hardy. Worthy of extensive testing, especially by the grower who does not want to blossom thin.

Washington—An attractive, yellow freestone that ripens just ahead of Glohaven. Fruit softens when nearly fully ripe. Has not proven bud hardy for us.

Jerseyqueen—A firm, yellow, freestone of excellent quality that ripens about three days after the peak of Redskin. Susceptible to bacterial spot. Although trees are too young for a final appraisal, the least that can be said is that it certainly promises to replace Elberta.

Robinson—A new patented, yellow freestone that ripens with Elberta or a few days later. Has good fruit size and color. Softens when fully ripe. Worthy of further testing.

We are very content to carry on with such cash register varieties such as Redhaven, Late Sunhaven, Loring and Redskin.

Nectarines

Five years ago we made a test planting of ten trees each of about ten varieties of nectarine. This year we had the experience of finding ourselves swamped with these delightful fruits. They were all so good that evaluation was difficult. They were well received at the terminal markets, and proved invaluable at the roadside market.

The four California varieties, Earliblaze, Delicious, Sunglo and Redgold had large size, high color, and ship-

ping firmness. However, since these varieties have not as yet been exposed to a brown rot year, we do not feel that they are as yet proven for this area.

The Virginia varieties—Cherokee, Lexington (too small), Redchief (delightful eating quality), Cavalier, Nectacrest, and 52n made many friends. The following note appears in my field book five days before Redhaven peaches were ripe: "Cherokee—good size, holding well, fine eating qualities, compares well with Earliblaze. May be the best Virginia nectarine."

Nectared 5 has been a consistent performer, with good sized, highly colored fruit. It is the one variety we have grown that is almost completely self-thinning.

Notes on Origin of the Delicious Apple

In the Proceedings of the 1905 meeting of APS, Col. G. B. Brackett, of Washington, D. C., has the following to say about the Delicious apple: "It originated in Madison County, Iowa, not far from Des Moines. The original tree came up as a sprout from the stump of a Yellow Bellflower that had been destroyed. The sprout was about six years old when it first fruited; the quality of the apple was so fine that the owner, Mr. Jesse Hyatt, at once set some grafts from it, as well as cultivating the original sprout, which soon began to make a very strong, thrifty growth. At 15 years of age, the tree was 13 inches in diameter at the ground. The tree is of upright growth, with heavy dark green foliage. It has proven extremely hardy; it bears annually and yields large quantities of beautiful, delicious fruit."