climate, color picking may be necessary to obtain uniformity in color and maturity. This is true with Golden Delicious also.

No storage study has been made. A few specimens placed in a household refrigerator in October, 1965 kept perfectly until Christmas.

The tree at the Lonborg farm is vigorous, with an almost upright habit, spreading branches, brownish-green bark, lenticels lighter colored and less conspicuous than in Golden Delicious. Spurs are not numerous but adequate in number. The variety is not a "spur type." Some blossom buds develop on the ends of twigs.

As to fruitfulness, it can only be said that the single branch and tree have borne fruit regularly for the last three years. Cropping has been quite satisfactory for a garden variety but no meaningful records of production have been obtained. The productivity and usefulness of Chehalis as a commercial orchard variety can be proven only by planting and obtaining harvest records in commercial orcharding areas.

It seems worth mentioning again that this new variety apparently has considerable resistance to the apple scab fungus. On the branch that Mr. Lonborg grafted into the multiple tree in 1957, some very small skin blemishes, presumably caused by scab, were found on a few apples of the Chehalis variety. There was much scab on both leaves and fruit of some other varieties on the same tree. The Chehalis tree had no scab.

Mr. Lonborg did not apply chemical sprays to his trees at any time. He believed that most home gardeners will not apply such sprays and that disease resistant varieties must be found, otherwise tree fruits will disappear from home gardens in a very few years. He was certain that Chehalis will become popular with home gardeners because of its scab resistance and good quality.

The Monroe Peach

GEORGE D. OBERLE*

The Monroe peach variety is a recent product of the peach breeding program underway at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Monroe is the fourth of the Virginia Presidential series of peach varieties. Like its predecessors, Washington, Jefferson, and Madison, Monroe was named after a Virginian who served as President of the United States.

Monroe was formerly identified as V. P. I. 58. It was selected from a population of seedlings resulting from crossing Rio Oso Gem with an unnamed V. P. I. seedling. The latter seedling came from a cross of Shipper's Late Red with Sunhigh. Trees or buds were distributed for evaluation to 29 Experiment Stations in the United States and Canada, and to stations in France and Italy.

The original tree first bore fruit in 1958. It was selected and propagated for further testing in 1960. The fruits were noted as being above average in size with bright, with attractive skin color, very firm flesh, and exceptionally good flavor for a peach ripening so late in the season. The fruit of the original tree showed no special susceptibility to attack by diseases or insects when adequately protected by

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the schedule of sprays recommended for commercial peach orchards in Virginia. The decision was made in 1964 to release it as Monroe in 1966. Buds from the original tree were distributed to nurseries interested in propagating it in 1964. Trees of Monroe will be available from ten commercial nurseries during the winter of 1966-1967.

Monroe has been tested primarily in the mountain and Piedmont sections of Virginia, and appears to be well adapted to the soils and climate prevailing there. Growers and horticulturists in other areas having similar environmental conditions may also find it worthy of testing. Its ripening season of approximately ten days after Elberta will limit Monroe's usefulness to areas having growing seasons long enough to ripen its fruits to the level of flavor and quality it is capable of developing.

The tree of Monroe is above average in vigor. The leaf glands are of the reniform type. It is only a moderate producer of fruit buds. The blossoms open a day or two later than most varieties of peach, and appear to have considerable tolerance to blossoming season frosts at Blacksburg. The flowers are of the large, pale pink, showy type, and apparently are self-fruitful. Representative fruits have averaged two-and-one-half to three inches in diameter. They are essentially spherical in shape, but the suture is inclined to be somewhat raised, although less so than that of its Rio Oso Gem parent. The skin color is about sixty percent bright medium red over rich orange-yellow ground color. The pubesence is short, enhancing its attractiveness. The orange-yellow flesh has a moderate amount of pinkish red color adjacent to the pit cavity. The fruits are fully freestone. The flesh is very firm and of relatively smooth texture. The flavor is mild with characteristic peach aroma. Its quality at Blacksburg has been rated well above that of other varieties ripening in its season.

Monroe may be a useful variety for growers interested in supplying their customers with attractive, firm-fleshed, high quality peaches after the commercial crop of the Elberta season has been sold.

Oregon's OP-9 Bartlett Pear

M. N. WESTWOOD, J. A. MILBRATH AND P. B. LOMBARD*

Oregon pear #9 (OP-9 Bartlett) was selected in 1956 by the late Dr. Jess Kienholz from a commercial orchard. It appeared to him to be better than other trees in the orchard, and subsequent nursery trials showed that trees budded with OP-9 grew faster than did another Bartlett selection. Dr. Kienholz distributed budwood of OP-9 pear (originally called KPB-1) to several Oregon nurserymen. In 1961 and 1962 tests at O.S.U. confirmed that OP-9 grew faster in the nursery than several other Bartlett selections.**

In 1963 OP-9 and 11 other Bartlett selections were established in a plot at the Medford Experiment Station in a uniform granite soil. All trees were propagated on a clonal *Pyrus*

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**Westwood, M. N. 1963. Superior Bartlett pear found, called OP-9. Oregon Orn. and Nursery Digest 7(3):1-2.