

The medium size berries are bluish-black in color with a heavy, waxy bloom that enhances their appearance. The berries hang longer on the vine after they are fully mature than those of Fredonia, Van Buren and Moore Early without losing their bloom, appearance and flavor. The slipskin is of medium thickness and toughness, and has not been subject to cracking when showers occurred as the fruit was ripening. The flavor is

sweet, moderately foxy, and comparable to that of Worden or well ripened Concord. The quality is rated as good if the vines are not allowed to overbear. Because of its short internodes and production of fruit buds at all nodes, the vine must be pruned carefully, and some cluster thinning may be advisable.

Vines are available from several commercial nurseries.

Six High Quality, Bacterial Spot Resistant Peach Varieties From North Carolina

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The North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station has named and released six new peach varieties that combine high quality and bacterial spot resistance. They cover a wide range of season of ripening from very early to late.

The objectives of the peach breeding program of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station are to develop new peach varieties that combine good horticultural qualities and resistance to bacterial spot (*Xanthomonas pruni*). This disease cannot be satisfactorily controlled with chemicals. The only solution for the production of peaches in the areas where the disease is a problem to plant varieties with a good degree of resistance to the disease.

Peach varieties immune to bacterial spot are not known. However, they vary widely in their susceptibility to this disease. Many of the more important varieties are very susceptible to bacterial spot and cannot be recommended for planting in areas of light sandy soils.

The following six new varieties have shown good to excellent resistance to

bacterial spot where they were originated and tested at the Sandhills Research Station near Jackson Springs, North Carolina:

Whynot: Resulted in a seedling from open pollinated seed of Erly-Red-Fre. The seeds were collected from the center of a large block of trees in 1956. The seedling fruited first in 1959. This is the earliest ripening peach tested in North Carolina. In the Sandhills area the fruits start to ripen from May 16 to May 24, or 3 to 5 days before Marcus. The fruits are small (1¾-2"), round, attractive, with short pubescence. Three-fourths of the skin surface is covered with a bright red blush over a medium yellow ground color. The flesh is very firm for an early peach, melting, fine texture and has a good flavor. It has a medium yellow color with very little, if any, red pigment. The flesh will separate from the pit only when soft ripe. The trees are of medium vigor, good form and productive. The flower is non-showy, self-fruitful and the blooming date is about the same as that of Redhaven. Whynot is moderately resistant to bacterial spot and

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the disease has never been a problem on the fruits.

Pekin: Resulted from a cross of Summercrest x Redhaven made in 1957. The seedling fruited first in 1960. The fruits of this variety ripen 2 to 3 days earlier than its pollen parent Redhaven in the North Carolina Sandhills area. The fruits are medium in size, round to slightly ovate, smooth with short pubescence. The skin surface is about three-fourths covered with an attractive red blush over a light yellow ground color. The flesh is equal to Redhaven in firmness, is medium in color and has a small amount of red near the pit. The texture is good with a minimum amount of fiber, is melting and has a mild pleasing flavor. The flesh separates clean from the pit when soft ripe. It is more freestone than Redhaven. The rate of browning of the flesh is intermediate on exposure to the air, or better than Redhaven. The trees are of medium vigor, well-formed and very productive. The flowers are small, non-showy and self-fruitful. The bloom date is late, or just after Redhaven. Pekin is highly resistant to bacterial spot, or about like Ranger.

Norman: Resulted from a cross of Sunhigh x Redskin made in 1957. The seedling fruited first in 1960. Fruits of this variety ripen 3 to 5 days before Ranger. The fruits are medium to large in size, round and smooth. The skin surface is mostly covered with a deep red blush over a medium to dull yellow ground color. The fruits color early and care must be exercised that they not be picked immature. The flesh is very firm and remains firm for a long time. It is a medium yellow color with a small amount of red pigment, especially near the pit cavity. The texture is fine-grained, melting, and has good flavor when ripe. The flesh on exposure to the air is very resistant to browning. It is completely freestone when fully ripe. The trees are of medium vigor and

very productive. The flowers are large, showy, and self-fruitful. The bloom date is about the same as Redhaven. Norman is quite resistant to bacterial spot, being rated better than Redhaven.

Troy: Resulted from a cross of Raritan Rose x Redskin made in 1955. The seedling fruited first in 1958. In the Sandhills area, the fruits ripen the second week of July or about the same season as Ranger. The fruits are medium to large in size, round and attractive. The skin surface is two-thirds covered with a bright red blush over a medium yellow ground color. The flesh is medium firm and holds up well after harvest. The color is a bright yellow to orange with only a small amount of red pigment. It is fine textured, with very little fiber, melting, and has excellent flavor. The flesh on exposure to air is rated good for resistance to browning. The fruits are fully freestone. The trees are medium vigorous, strong and produc-

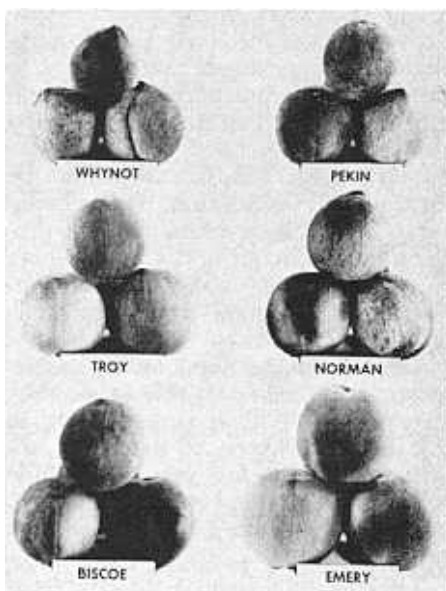


Fig. 1. Six peach varieties resistant to bacterial spot, originated at the Sandhills Research Station, near Jackson Springs, N. C.

tive. The flowers are small, non-showy, and self-fruitful. The blooming date is about the same as that of Elberta. Troy is moderately resistant to bacterial spot, or equal to Redskin.

Biscoe: Resulted from a cross of Raritan Rose x Redskin made in 1955. The seedling fruited first in 1958. The season of ripening is about the same as Redskin. The fruits are large in size, round and attractive. The skin surface is about two-thirds covered with a bright red blush over a deep yellow ground color. The flesh is quite firm and holds well after harvest. It is a deep yellow to orange color with a small amount of red pigment, mostly near the pit cavity. The texture is fine with very little fiber, is melting, and has a very pleasing flavor. The flesh on exposure to air browns readily but not as rapidly as Elberta. The trees are medium-vigorous, well formed and productive. The flowers are small, non-showy and self-fruitful. Biscoe is highly resistant to bacterial spot, or better than Redskin.

Emery: Resulted from a cross of Rochester x Redskin made in 1958. The seedling fruited first in 1961. It ripens about a week later than Elberta. The fruits are medium in size or

equal to Elberta, round and smooth. One-half or more of the skin surface is covered with a red blush over a dull yellow ground color. The fruits are very firm and keep well after harvest. Flesh color is a medium yellow, and has somewhat less red pigment than Redskin. It is fine textured, melting, less juicy than Elberta and has an excellent flavor. Flesh browns readily. Fruits are fully freestone. The trees are vigorous, well formed and productive. The flowers are large and showy and bloom about the same time as Redhaven. Emery is moderately resistant to bacterial spot disease or about like Redskin.

For more detailed information, refer to North Carolina Agricultural Experimental Station Bulletin No. 436, titled "Six New Peach Varieties for North Carolina."

The North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station does not have trees for sale. The only source of trees is the North Carolina Foundation Seed Producers, Inc., Mr. R. W. McMillen, Manager—Post Office Box 5687, State College Station, Raleigh, N. C., Zip Code 27607. Budwood will be available to any interested nurserymen through this agency for the 1969 budding season.

Stanley Johnston (1898-1969)

G. M. KESSLER

When Stanley Johnston, Superintendent of the South Haven Experiment Station of Michigan State University passed away on March 10, 1969, the world lost one of its greatest fruit breeders, and A. P. S. lost one of its staunchest supporters. He will probably be best remembered for his Redhaven peach, which is now possibly the most widely planted peach variety in the world.

Stanley Johnston was born in Roscommon, Michigan, Sept. 9, 1898. He received his B. S. degree from Michi-

gan State University in Horticulture in 1920, and his M.S. degree from the same institution in 1930.

In 1920, he was appointed Superintendent of the South Haven Experiment Station, a position he held until his death, some 49 years later. During all those years at South Haven, Johnston devoted most of his time to the breeding of fruits—peach, blueberry, apricot, strawberry and raspberry. James E. Moulton collaborated with him during the past 15 years. In his blueberry work, not only did