

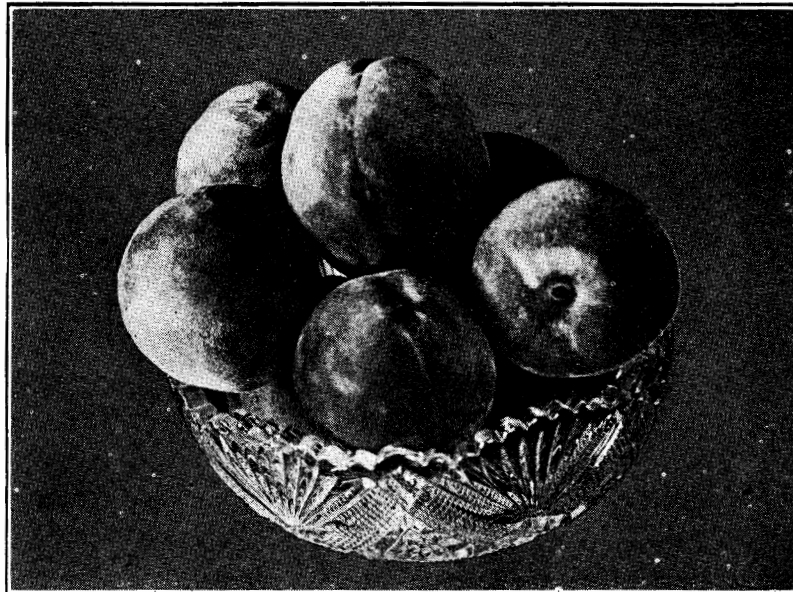
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VARIETY TEST OF PEACHES

HORTICULTURE



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EXPERIMENT STATION, Stillwater, Oklahoma

VARIETY TEST OF PEACHES

O. M. Morris, Horticulturist and Botanist

Peach orchards in Oklahoma have produced peaches every year since 1896. The crop has been light several years, and in some localities there have been one or more entire failures. The home orchards that were cultivated and cared for have usually borne an abundance of fruit for family use. The commercial orchards have yielded such good returns that more are being planted every year in the immediate neighborhood of the older orchards. The Elberta, the most popular market peach in cultivation today, is well adapted to the soil and climate of Oklahoma. The list of varieties that have been tested and found to be suitable for planting in Oklahoma is quite long and gives such a range of quality and season that the most fastidious may be sure of growing a peach to their liking.

The seedling trees are frequently said to be longer lived than are our budded trees. This is sufficiently explained when we notice the difference in the productiveness of the two trees. The budded tree produces much larger quantities of fruit and by this process reduces its vitality more rapidly than does the seedling tree. The claim that the seedling tree is more hardy in bud and more frequently sets a crop of fruit than does the budded tree is true. The very process of propagation of this seedling tree insures a hardiness of winter buds that cannot be expected in the budded tree from the fact that the budded tree is propagated and perpetuated because its fruits are of special value. In the seedling tree the hardiness of winter buds and the frequency of crop production is the quality of greatest value in propagation of trees. In the budded tree the quality, size, and quantity of fruit are the points that are considered in selecting this special tree for propagation and general culture. The

mere recognition of the fact that the seedling trees are the most hardy does not warrant the conclusion that they should be grown in our orchards for fruit production. The fruit is inferior and frequently worthless. Attention might with profit be paid to the origin and propagation of more hardy varieties of our budded fruits and the trend of horticulture is strongly in that direction.

The blossoming period of trees varies from year to year; also the relative dates of blossoming of the different varieties will vary to some extent. For example, the Elberta will one year blossom a little ahead of the Early Crawford, and the next year it may possibly be a little later than that variety in blossoming. These differences are not great enough to be of much consequence, but the early blossoming of any variety has little to do with its relative hardiness. It has also no relation to the period of ripening of the fruit. Some of our latest varieties are the first to blossom in the spring, while some of our earliest varieties are among the latest.

The degree of cold that the blossoms will endure without being injured depends upon the normal vigor of the tree, upon the character of the weather at the time of blossoming, and upon the variety itself. As a general rule, the large blossomed varieties are more hardy while in blossom than are those with small flowers. Weather varying from extreme warm to frost, or to temperature below frost point is very destructive to fruit blossoms. An extremely dry freeze is more injurious to fruit while in blossom than the same temperature accompanied by a large amount of moisture in the air. Cold rains at the blossoming time are very influential in preventing a good set of fruit in any fruit trees, and especially in the peach. After the fruit has set, however, cold rains and even freezes frequently result in very little injury to the peach crop.

The varieties described in this bulletin have been planted in the variety test orchards of the Agricultural Experiment Station. The study of these varieties, however, has not been confined to these orchards. All reliable information that could be obtained relative to the characteristics, qualities, success, or failure of each variety has formed a part of these descriptive notes.



The Test Orchard of Peaches in Winter.

Varieties

Alexander. Tree vigorous, round well formed head; buds very hardy; leaves medium size; glands globose; flowers large; fruit small to medium size, roundish; suture medium shallow, distinct; color greenish white covered with red; flesh white, soft, ripening at the outside while green at center, juicy; quality poor; very early; rots badly in wet seasons; season and vigor are all that commend this variety.

Alice. Tree vigorous, spreading; leaves large; flowers small; fruit medium to large, globular, flattened; suture distinct; one side enlarged; skin white with red cheek; flesh white, firm, juicy; quality good; free; mid-season; a good variety.

Amsden. This variety is almost identical with Alexander. There is no practical difference.

Arkansas Traveler. This variety is the same as Alexander.

Becquette Cling. Tree vigorous, large, upright; leaves large; flowers small; fruit medium sized, round, compressed, irregular; suture distinct, depressed at apex; skin creamy white, with red cheek; flesh white, firm; quality good; mid-season; one of the best mid-season clings.

Becquette Free. Tree vigorous, upright; leaves large; blossoms small; fruit medium to large, round, conical; suture distinct; skin white with red cheek; flesh white, red at stone; free; quality good; mid-season; medium good variety.

Belle of Georgia. Tree vigorous; fruit medium to large, roundish, oblong, one side enlarged; suture swollen at side, decreased at apex; apex pointed; cavity deep, narrow; skin creamy white; dull red cheek; flesh white, tinted red at center; fine texture, juicy, mellow; quality good; free; mid-season.

Carmen. Tree vigorous with large leaves; glands reniform; flowers large; fruit medium to large, round, compressed; suture indistinct, skin white, red cheeked showing marble effect in the sun; flesh white, soft, juicy; quality good; medium early; this is a good peach, but is not widely tested or planted.

Champion. Tree vigorous, leaves medium to large; fruit medium to large, round; suture distinct; skin white shaded with red; flesh white or cream color, pink at stone; rich, juicy, free; quality good; mid-season. This is a very productive variety, and is one of the best for home orchards.

Chinese Cling. Tree medium sized, vigorous; leaves large; glands reniform; flowers large; fruit large, round to oblong, one-sided; suture distinct; skin white, red, shaded and striped; flesh white, red at stone, tender, soft, mellow; early mid-season; a good variety.

Connett's Early. Tree moderately strong, round top; leaves medium size; flowers large; fruit medium to large, oblong; suture slightly deeper at cavity and apex; skin creamy yellow with pink cheek; flesh white, red at center, soft; quality good, free; early, a very promising variety.

Crawfords Early. Tree vigorous, tall with open top; leaves large; flowers small; fruit large, round to oblong; suture distinct; skin yellow, red in sun; flesh yellow, red at stone, firm; free; quality good; early mid-season. This is a good variety but a little tender in bud for general orchard planting in central and northern Oklahoma.

Crawfords Late. Tree vigorous with open top; leaves large; flowers small; fruit large, round; skin yellow with red cheek; flesh yellow, red at stone; tender, melting, free; quality good. This is a good variety but it is a little tender in bud for general planting in central and northern Oklahoma.

Crimson Beauty. Tree vigorous, tall, upright; leaves medium to large; flowers small; fruit medium to large, round; suture distinct; skin greenish white, shaded deep crimson, flesh white, red at stone; cling; quality good; late mid-season. This is an inferior quality.

Early Rivers. Tree vigorous, spreading; leaves large; blossoms large; fruit large, roundish; suture deep at both ends of fruit; apex small; skin white, red cheek in the sun; flesh greenish white, soft, juicy; quality good; freestone or sometimes semi-cling; early mid-season.

Elberta. Tree vigorous, upright, spreading; leaves large; glands reniform; blossoms small; fruit large, oblong, one-sided; suture distinct; skin yellow with red cheek; flesh yellow, red at center; quality medium; semi-cling to entire free. This is the greatest commercial variety in the United States. It is a splendid shipper and a splendid bearer.

Family Favorite. Tree vigorous, round top; leaves large, oblong; flowers medium size; suture small but distinct; skin creamy white with

red cheek; flesh white, red at stone, soft, juicy; quality good; free; mid-season; a good peach.

Globe. Tree vigorous, compact, round top; leaves large; fruit large, round; suture indistinct; skin greenish yellow with red blush; flesh yellow, firm; free; quality good; mid-season. Seems to be a light bearer.

Greensboro. Tree vigorous, broad top; leaves large; flowers large; fruit medium to large, oblong; suture distinct; skin white, shaded and splashed with red; flesh greenish white, soft, juicy; quality fair; free or semi-cling; early.

Indian Blood Cling. Tree of medium vigor round top; leaves medium size; fruit medium size, round; skin dark red, mottled; flesh red next to skin and sometimes red throughout, firm; quality good; cling; mid-season. This variety is of value only as a novelty.

Hale's Early. Tree tall, slender; leaves large; flowers large; fruit medium size, nearly round; skin yellowish white, shaded and blotched with red; flesh white; semi-cling; quality good; very early.

Heath Cling. Tree tall, medium strong; leaves medium size; flowers small; fruit large, oblong or oval, with large point at apex; skin white or light yellow; flesh white, soft, very juicy; cling; late. This is a very good variety for the home orchard.

Henrietta. Tree vigorous, low, open spreading; leaves small to medium size; flowers small; fruit medium to large, round; suture distinct; skin greenish yellow, with red blush; flesh light yellow, red at stone; cling; quality medium to poor; mid-season to late. This is a second-class variety.

Lee (General Lee). Tree small to upright; flowers large; buds winter tender; fruit medium size; oblong; suture shallow, running the length of the fruit; skin white, shaded red; flesh white, soft, juicy; cling; mid-season. Not worthy of general planting.

Mamie Ross. Tree vigorous, spreading variety; leaves large; flowers large; fruit large, oblong or oblong obovate, one side enlarged; suture distinct; skin white or light green, splashed and shaded with red; flesh white, soft, juicy; quality good; semi-cling; mid-season. This is a good variety for home orchard only.

Miss Lolo. Tree tall, compact; leaves large; glands reniform; flowers large; fruit large, globular, round; cavity wide; suture distinct; apex pointed; color creamy white, splashed and marked with red; skin tender, but firm; flesh white, red at pit, soft, juicy; free; flavor mild; quality good; mid-season.

Mountain Rose. Tree vigorous, spreading top; leaves medium to large; glands globose; flowers large; fruit medium to large; roundish; suture distinct; color white, red cheek; flesh white, a little red at seed; sometimes a little dry, but very sweet and good quality; freestone; mid-season. This variety is a good bearer and a good peach for the home orchard; it rots badly in wet seasons.

Old Mixon Cling. Tree tall, vigorous; leaves medium size; glands globose; flowers small; fruit large, roundish, oval; slightly one-sided; color yellowish white, red cheek; flesh white, red at seed, juicy; quality good; cling; late mid-season. This is a splendid variety for the home orchard.

Old Mixon Free. Tree vigorous, tall, round open top; leaves medium to large; glands globose; blossoms small; fruit medium to large, round; color white, with red cheek; flesh white, red at seed, rich, juicy; quality good; mid-season to late. A fair peach for the home orchard.

Salway. Tree medium size, vigorous; leaves large; flowers small; fruit large; roundish, ovate; color yellow with red cheek; flesh deep yellow, red at seed; free; quality good; late. This is the best of the late peaches for Oklahoma.

Smock. Tree vigorous, upright; leaves medium to large; glands reniform; blossoms small; fruit medium to large, roundish, oblong; color yellow, red cheek; flesh yellow, dry, mealy; free; second quality; mid-season and later.

Sneed. Tree vigorous, spreading; leaves large; glands round; blossoms large; fruit round; oval or oblong; suture long, narrow, distinct; skin creamy white, with red cheek; tender; flesh white, soft; semi-cling; quality poor to fair; season early; moderately productive; good only for local market. This is a very early peach, but it is too soft and watery when ripe to be of value here for the fact of its extreme earliness.

Stump. Tree medium size, vigorous; leaves medium size; glands globose; fruit large, slightly oblong; color creamy white, with red cheek; flesh white; free; quality good; late mid-season. This variety is a general favorite in the Eastern States, but is not a favorite in Oklahoma.

Sylphide. Tree vigorous, spreading; leaves large; fruit medium to large, round, oblong, compressed; suture distinct; flesh white, juicy, red at center; cling; quality fair; a second grade variety.

Thurber. Tree vigorous, spreading; leaves large; fruit large, round or conic, enlarged at center by suture; suture distinct; apex prominent; skin white, with red cheek in sun; flesh white, red at stone, juicy; free; quality very good; early mid-season. Said to be a good shipper.

Triumph. Tree vigorous, top open, upright; leaves medium size; glands globose; flowers large; fruit medium to large, round; suture distinct; skin dark yellow, covered with red; flesh yellow, red at center; semi-cling; early; medium good early variety.

Yellow St. John. Tree vigorous, upright, spreading top; leaves middle size; glands globose; blossoms small; fruit medium to small; globular, flattened; suture distinct, one side enlarged; skin yellow, almost covered with red; flesh yellow, firm, juicy; quality good; early mid-season; irregular in bearing. This is a second class peach.