

Peach Varieties

FOR SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

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CANADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PUBLICATION 1203

1964

When you are establishing a new peach orchard, there is nothing more important than your choice of a variety. Since it takes five to seven years to bring a peach tree into moderate production, your investment is great and the choice must be a good one. The fact that a promising new variety is given a name does not ensure its success. Varieties are not all adapted to the same climate and soil. Therefore, make sure that those you select have been thoroughly tested and found suitable for your area.

The Harrow Research Station breeds and tests peach varieties for southwestern Ontario. As new varieties are released, they are put into the testing program. The following is up-to-date information on the needs of this region and the performance of trees in the tests.

The peach trees must be winter-hardy in the wood and the bud to ensure continued production. They must also resist such major diseases as perennial canker and bacterial spot. You can compare these qualities among the commercial varieties that are listed in Table 2.

Aim to have varieties that mature in succession and give you a continuous, marketable supply for the fresh fruit trade and the processor. The average dates of the first harvest of varieties at the Harrow station during the past five years (Table 1) show the seasonal range.

Also, when selecting varieties, consider the appearance of the fruit, its ground and overcolor, how it does in adverse conditions, how easily it is picked, how well it hangs on the tree, and its firmness or shipping quality. The flesh should have a melting texture and should separate freely from the pit. Fruit for processing should be almost free of redness inside.

Early

Cardinal is a medium-size clingstone with an attractive red overcolor. The trees must be thinned carefully to produce fruit of adequate size without excessive split-pitting.

Dixired, a medium clingstone with deeper color than *Cardinal*, is more consistently productive too. Thin the trees carefully to obtain a good size

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Table 1 – Peaches in Order of First Harvest Dates (Five-year Averages)

	Jul.		Aug.		Aug.
Earlired	22	Redhaven	11	Valiant	26
Cardinal	27	Golden Jubilee	12	Veteran	28
Garnet Beauty	27	Keystone	16	Loring	30
Dixired	29	Envoy	17		Sept.
Royalvee	30	V46108	18	V461013	2
Redcap	31	Washington	18	Kalhaven	4
	Aug.	Triogem	20	Early Elberta	6
Sunhaven	4	Halehaven	22	Olinda	6
Jerseyland	8	July Elberta	23	Redskin	11
				Elberta	13

of fruit. Overthinning causes split pits.

Earlired is a large, highly colored clingstone. The flesh is moderately firm and of good quality. It is especially susceptible to split-pitting in the early years of production.

Garnet Beauty is an early-maturing sport of Redhaven and so has similar fruit.

Redcap is a medium-size, attractive semiclingstone that may be very hairy in some seasons. The trees have been consistently good producers.

Royalvee is a large semiclingstone with a striped overcolor on a yellow ground. The flavor is outstanding but this peach is not as firm as Cardinal or Dixired.

Early Midseason

Envoy is a medium-size freestone of exceptional quality for processing. It produces consistently but must be thinned for a satisfactory size of fruit.

Golden Jubilee is a medium-size freestone suited only for processing. The fruit lacks firmness and drops readily. The trees bear well even after a bad winter, and the fruit can keep its size when the crop is heavy.

Jerseyland is being replaced by Sunhaven because it tends to have split pits, a prominent nipple and inferior appearance. The trees are very susceptible to perennial canker.

Keystone, a large semiclingstone, is not especially attractive or productive in this area.

Redhaven is a medium-size, attractive semiclingstone with good shipping and eating qualities. The trees are especially productive and must be thinned to improve the size of fruit.

Sunhaven is a promising, medium-size semiclingstone. The fruit is highly colored but may soften rapidly during ripening. Like Redhaven, it bears well and must be thinned to attain a good size of fruit.

V46108 is exceptionally attractive. The fruit is medium firm, usually freestone, and the flesh is moderately red. It is suitable for the basket trade. Weak trees and susceptibility to disease may limit its usefulness.

Washington is a medium-size, attractive freestone. Its flesh has good qualities but it sometimes becomes intensely red at the pit. It is hardy.

Midseason

Early Elberta (Gleason strain) is a medium-size freestone. It is an early-maturing sport of Elberta, which it closely resembles. The fruit is acceptable for processing.

Halehaven has large fruit but is not attractive enough for a basket variety and is inconsistent as a processed fruit. The flesh adheres to the pit in some seasons.

July Elberta, a medium-size, attractive freestone, processes well but is extremely susceptible to bacterial spot.

Kalhaven, a medium-size freestone, can be a dual-purpose peach because of its appearance and quality.

Loring is a large, attractive semiclingstone that colors early and has good shipping and eating qualities. It is unsuitable for canning.

Olinda is a medium-size, moderately colored semiclingstone with a free stone when ripe. It is limited to the basket trade because of intense redness at the pit.

Triogem is a medium-size peach, usually freestone, that has yielded well. Though not an outstanding variety, its hardy tree makes this a good addition to the basket trade.

Valiant is a medium-size freestone that lacks sufficient color and firmness for the basket trade. The results in canning are inconsistent and it is susceptible to bacterial spot.

Veteran is an unattractive clingstone that lacks firmness. It is worth considering only because of its winterhardiness.

V461013 is a medium-size, attractive freestone. Although the fruit is good enough to qualify as a dual-purpose peach, the leaves and fruit are too readily infected with bacterial spot.

Late

Elberta is a medium-size freestone suitable for late processing, and is well adapted to this region. The fruit drops readily.

Redskin is a medium-size, attractive freestone with good quality for the fresh market. The trees are consistently productive and must be thinned to obtain fruit with adequate size.

Table 2 - Features of Peach Trees Tested at the Harrow Research Station

Variety	Winterhardiness		Diseases	
	Wood	Fruit bud	Perennial canker	Bacterial spot
<i>Early</i>				
Cardinal	Tender	Tender	Susceptible	-
Dixired	Moderate	Medium hardy	Susceptible	-
Earlired	Tender	Tender	Susceptible	Susceptible
Garnet Beauty	Moderate	Medium hardy	Intermediate	Susceptible
Redcap	Moderate	Medium hardy	-	-
Royalvee	Moderate	Medium tender	Resistant	-
<i>Early Midseason</i>				
Envoy	Moderate	Hardy	Intermediate	-
Golden Jubilee	Moderate	Hardy	Intermediate	-
Jerseyland	-	Hardy	Susceptible	Susceptible
Keystone	Moderate	Tender	Intermediate	-
Redhaven	Moderate	Medium hardy	Intermediate	Susceptible
Sunhaven	Moderate	Hardy	Intermediate	-
V46108	-	Medium tender	-	Susceptible
Washington	-	Medium hardy	-	-
<i>Midseason</i>				
Early Elberta	Moderate	Tender	-	-
Halehaven	Moderate	Tender	Susceptible	-
July Elberta	Moderate	Tender	Susceptible	Susceptible
Kalhaven	Moderate	Medium tender	Intermediate	-
Loring	Tender	Tender	Intermediate	-
Olinda	-	Medium tender	-	Susceptible
Triogem	Moderate	Hardy	Intermediate	-
Valiant	Moderate	Tender	Intermediate	Susceptible
Veteran	Hardy	Hardy	Intermediate	-
V461013	-	Medium tender	-	Susceptible
<i>Late</i>				
Elberta	Moderate	Medium tender	Resistant	Susceptible
Redskin	Moderate	Hardy	Intermediate	-

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