VARIETIES OF PEACHES

For The

YAZOO-MISSISSIPPI DELTA

Delta Experiment Station
Stoneville, Mississippi

By

E. A. Currey

Section of an Elberta tree showing size, quality, and production of Yazoo-Mississippi Delta peaches. This tree produced 44 bushels in 1938.

MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS
State College, Mississippi
J. R. RICKS, Director
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EXPERIMENTAL WITH Ayres, juicy, showy liaurant fruit.

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INTRODUCTION

Peaches are well adapted to Delta conditions. All Delta planters should have at least a home orchard consisting of high yielding, high quality varieties giving a continuous supply of luscious fruit from June 1 until August 15. This bulletin gives the results obtained from 16 varieties of peaches planted in the spring of 1923. Success or failure is often determined by the varieties used.

EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

The trees were planted 20 ft. by 20 ft. (This is entirely too CLOSE. The minimum distance for peaches in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta is 25 ft. by 30 ft.) All varieties received the same treatment throughout. Records were made of time of ripening, yield, and size of fruit. The trees were numbered by a copper tag tied to each. Every time the fruit was gathered each crate was tagged and the number of the tree kept with the fruit until it was weighed, counted, and recorded. The records show the date of each picking, the number, and weight of the fruit gathered. The average date of the heaviest annual picking is considered the "average ripening date." The ripening period is the period between the average date of the first and last pickings. The records also show total weight of the fruit and total number of fruit. From this the total yield in bushels and the average size of the fruit were calculated.

VARIETY NOTES AND RESULTS

Mayflower, Red Bird Cling, and Early Rose varieties were killed by the 1927 flood. No five-year average on these is available, but they are considered good.

MAYFLOWER

Mayflower ripens about May 24.

It is a vigorous grower and is well adapted to the Delta, but did not stand the flood water as long as the other varieties.

The fruit averages about six to the pound, has a fine, showy color but lacks the good flavor wanted in a peach.

It merely supplies the desire for very early fruit, and, for this reason, sells well.

It is semi-clingstone in type.

VAINQUEER

Vainquer was obtained from the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction of the United States Department of Agriculture.

It has been turned over to three nurseries for propagation.

It ripens about June 1, is a very vigorous grower and heavy yielder.

The fruit averages about five to the pound, is semi-freestone, has a fine showy color, and a good flavor.

The meat is white with a slight reddish tint.

It has not been in the test for five years, but available data show it to be outstanding for home and commercial use.

RED BIRD CLING

Red Bird Cling ripens about June 6, is a clingstone peach, tough, not very juicy, and is not a very heavy yielder. It has a place in the home orchard but upon present data cannot be recommended as a commercial peach.
EARLY ROSE

Early Rose ripens about June 14, is a good peach for the home and market orchards, tight clingstone type with an excellent peach flavor.

No five-year records are available on this variety, but it is a surpassingly good early variety.

EARLY ELBERTA

Early Elberta is in the new variety test and ripens about 10 days before regular Elberta.

It is a heavier yielder than Elberta, and its quality is slightly better.

It is recommended to replace Elberta.

Early Elberta must not be confused with the June Elberta which is not recommended.

CHINESE CLING

Chinese Cling ripens about five days before Elberta.

The fruit is white, clingstone, and averages about three to the pound.

It is very fine for pickling and can be recommended for home orchard or market.

It is not in the old variety test but is in the new test and has not been in production for five years.

TABLE 1.—Peach Production Table—Varieties Listed in Order of Yield

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Average Bushels Per Tree (1)</th>
<th>Average Date Ripe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1926</td>
<td>1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hidy</td>
<td>2.11</td>
<td>3.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mamie Ross</td>
<td>2.11</td>
<td>3.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belle of Georgia</td>
<td>1.82</td>
<td>4.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain Ede</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>3.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captive</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>3.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enge Mammurneth</td>
<td>1.77</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elberta</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krummell's Late</td>
<td>1.72</td>
<td>1.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greensboro</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arp Beauty</td>
<td>1.42</td>
<td>3.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Crawford</td>
<td>1.46</td>
<td>1.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy Bunn</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>1.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October Elberta</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. H. Hale</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salway</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>1.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June Elberta</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: (1) 50 lbs. per bushel is legal. A measured bushel varies from 42 to 50 pounds depending upon size.
TWO very OUTSTANDING NECTARINES obtained from the Federal Division of Plant Importation have been observed. Both were imported from New Zealand and ripen about July 23. One is a heavy producing freestone with excellent flavor. The other is a clingstone with good quality and large size. Both nectarines are soon to be let to nurseries for propagation. They are recommended for home orchards and local markets.

TABLE 2—Peach Size Table—Varieties Listed in Order of Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Average Number of Peaches Per Bushel</th>
<th>Avg. No. Per Lb.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1926</td>
<td>1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy Rumm</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elberta</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June Elberta</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salway</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October Elberta</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. H. Hale</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain Ede</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Crawford</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belle of Georgia</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krummel's Late</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carman</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mamie Ross</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engle Mammoth</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greensboro</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiley</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr Beauty</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JUNE ELBERTA

Average Ripening Period: June 6 to 15.
Average Date of Heaviest Picking: June 11.
Tree Characteristics: Very hardy wood; buds not so hardy; very vigorous, upright grower.
Productiveness: Very poor, only 1.53 bushels, annually, per tree.
Fruit Characteristics: Large, average 3.36 peaches per pound; freestone; clear orange-yellow color, very attractive; good flavor, tender, and juicy.
Uses: Used for home or market orchards, especially good for early market.
Remarks: Not recommended because of very low production.

GREENSBORO

Average Ripening Period: June 11 to 23.
Average Date of Heaviest Picking: June 16.
Tree Characteristics: Very hardy bud and wood; vigorous, spreading type.
Productiveness: Averaged 3.13 bushels, annually, per tree.
Fruit Characteristics: Averaged 5.44 peaches per pound; flesh is creamy-white with a deep blush on cheek; semi-clingstone type; ripens at apex before it ripens at stem; undesirable to handle because of bruising the unevenly ripened fruit; tender, juicy, fair flavor.
Uses: Used mostly for eating fresh.
Remarks: Fair for home orchards but not recommended for market.

![GREENSBORO](image-url)
ARP BEAUTY

Average Ripening Period: June 8 to 23.
Average Date of Heaviest picking: June 16.
Tree Characteristics: Wood not very hardy; bud hardy; medium vigor, upright type.
Productiveness: Averaged 2.75 bushels, annually, per tree.
Fruit Characteristics: Averaged 6.38 peaches per pound; yellow flesh with deep blush on sunny side; almost round in shape; semi-cling; good quality with good flavor; skin medium thin and tough.
Uses: Its use is general: pickling, eating, and shipping.
Remarks: Recommended for market and home orchards.

CARMAN

Average Ripening Period: June 24 to July 11.
Average Date of Heaviest Picking: July 7.
Tree Characteristics: Very hardy buds and wood; withstands cold and dry weather extremely well; very vigorous, upright grower.
Productiveness: Very productive, averaged 4.73 bushels per tree, annually.
Fruit Characteristics: Medium to large, averaged 4.86 peaches per pound; very attractive, white flesh tinted with red; semi-clingstone type; juicy, very fine flavor, firm flesh.
Uses: Used either for home or market, especially good for eating fresh or pickling.
Remarks: This variety ranked fifth in production and is highly recommended for every Delta orchard.

MAMIE ROSS

Average Ripening Period: June 28 to July 13.
Average Date of Heaviest Picking: July 9.
Tree Characteristics: Not as hardy as Carman, does not withstand extremely dry weather well; fruit buds are hardy; medium vigorous, spreading type.
Productiveness: Very productive, dependable bearer, averaged 5.00 bushels, annually, per tree.
Fruit Characteristics: Medium to large, 5.00 peaches to one pound; semi-cling type; white flesh, attractive, showy, deep blush on sunny side; fine quality with good flavor and firm flesh.
Uses: Used for either home or market, especially good for eating fresh.
Remarks: Mamie Ross ranked second in production. In 1920 two trees of this variety averaged more than 10 bushels per tree which led all other varieties. It does not withstand extreme and prolonged droughts as well as Hiley, Carman, Belle of Georgia, or Captain Ede. Since it ripens with Carman and Hiley, which are more desirable for home and market, it is not recommended.
HILEY

Average Ripening Period: July 5 to 10.

Average Date of Heaviest Picking: July 12.

Tree Characteristics: Wood is hardy; bud is hardy. A sufficient number of fruit buds have always come through the winter to insure a heavy crop. The trees are very vigorous and distinctly spreading.

Productiveness: Very productive, dependable bearer, averaged 5.32 bushels per tree. This is the highest producer in the test. One individual tree averaged over 10 bushels of fruit in 1928 and 1929. The five trees averaged 9.2 and 8.1 bushels, respectively, those two years.

Fruit Characteristics: Freestone; white flesh tinted red next to seed; skin is tough, thin, greenish yellow with a dull red blush on the sunny side; averaged 5.48 peaches per pound; flesh firm and tender with very excellent flavor.

Uses: Used for home and market, especially good for eating while fresh, preserving, and canning.

Remarks: Very highly recommended for home and market.

BELLE OF GEORGIA

Average Ripening Period: July 18 to August 1.

Average Date of Heaviest Picking: July 24.

Tree Characteristics: Large, vigorous, medium spreading, open type, and
hardy: fruit buds are not extremely hardy but withstand even the coldest Delta winters.

Productiveness: Very productive, dependable bearer; averaged 4.91 bushels per tree.

Fruit Characteristics: Freestone type; has white flesh, deep colored cheek, skin is thin and tender; averaged 4.82 peaches per pound; flesh is juicy, tender, stringy, and sweet.

Uses: Extra fine for eating while fresh; easily bruised—not good for shipping.

Remarks: This is the outstanding variety of the test for eating from the tree or while fresh. It ranks third in average production. It is very highly recommended for every Delta home orchard, but cannot be recommended for shipping.

**CAPTAIN EDE**

Average Ripening Period: July 18 to 31.
Average Date of Heaviest Picking: July 26.

Tree Characteristics: Medium to large; vigorous, upright growth; wood and fruit buds hardy.

Productiveness: Very productive, dependable bearer, averaged 4.79 bushels per tree.

Fruit Characteristics: Freestone type; has yellow, firm flesh; skin is thin and tough; averaged 4.46 peaches per pound; fine quality with smooth flesh of good flavor.

Uses: Used for home or market, especially good for eating while fresh and for canning.

Remarks: This variety averaged fourth in production and is fair for market use just before Elberta ripens. It ripens with Belle of Georgia and is not recommended for home orchards, because Belle is superior in quality and production.

**J. H. HALE**

Average Ripening Period: July 19 to 30.
Average Date of Heaviest Picking: July 26.

Tree Characteristics: Not very vigorous; spreading habit of growth; wood and fruit buds not hardy.

Productiveness: Very poor, averaged only 1.71 bushels per tree, annually.

Fruit Characteristics: Very large, averaged 3.88 peaches per pound; nearly spherical in shape; skin thick, tough, pale yellow, covered with mottlings and splashes of attractive red; flesh yellow; freestone type; good quality, flesh juicy, fine grained, sweet.

Uses: Used for shipping and home consumption, especially good for canning.

Remarks: This variety is self-sterile and is more susceptible to brown rot than Elberta. It is not recommended for the home orchard or market.
ELBERTA

Average Ripening Period: July 18 to 31.
Average Date of Heaviest Picking: July 27.
Tree Characteristics: Large, vigorous, upright growth; wood hardy; fruit buds tender, sometimes killed by severe freezes.
Productiveness: Ranks seventh or 3.67 bushels per tree, annually; only medium productive.
Fruit Characteristics: Freestone type; extra large and showy; yellow flesh; skin medium thick and rough; averaged 3.18 peaches per pound; quality only fair, flesh firm, a little stringy, coarse, yet tender and juicy, mild in flavor.
Uses: Used principally for shipping and canning.
Remarks: This variety is the outstanding canning variety and the best selling peach in the test. It is the most popular peach grown and is recommended for both home and market orchards.

LUCY BUNN

Average Ripening Period: July 21 to August 4.
Average date of Heaviest Picking: July 29.
Tree Characteristics: Not very vigorous, upright grower; wood and fruit buds are not hardy.
Productiveness: Very poor, only averaged 2.58 bushels per tree.
Fruit Characteristics: Freestone type, seed usually splits with peach; very large, averaged 3.08 peaches per pound; white flesh; very pubescent, with green skin which turns white when ripe; good quality, flesh juicy, sweet, firm, and tender.
Uses: Used for eating while fresh.
Remarks: Very susceptible to brown rot; fruit often cracks to the seed. Not recommended.
ENGLE MAMMOTH

Average Ripening Period: July 19 to August 1.
Average Date of Heaviest Picking: July 30.
Tree Characteristics: Vigorous, upright grower; wood and fruit buds are hardy.
Productiveness: Productive, averaged 4.67 bushels per tree, annually.
Fruit Characteristics: Freestone type; medium in size, averaged 5.38 peaches per pound; yellow flesh, attractively colored with dark red; good quality, flesh juicy, tender, and of good flavor.
Uses: Used for eating while fresh, canning, or shipping.
Remarks: This variety is good for the home orchard but is not a good market peach because it ripens with the Elberta which is a much better seller. It has a tough skin and will stand shipping well.

SALWAY

Average Ripening Period: July 24 to August 5.
Average Date of Heaviest Picking: August 1.
Tree Characteristics: Medium size; not very hardy; upright habit.
Productiveness: Very poor, averaged only 4.67 bushels per tree per year.
Fruit Characteristics: Very large, averaged 3.36 peaches per pound; yellow flesh; thin, tough, greenish-yellow skin; somewhat bulged near the apex, and with unequal halves; excellent quality.
Uses: Used for shipping and canning.
Remarks: Susceptible to brown rot; poor producer, not recommended.

Twelve representative fruits of each of four varieties. (The second variety from the left is J. H. Hare).

LATE CRAWFORD

Average Ripening Period: July 16 to August 8.
Average Date of Heaviest Picking: August 4.
Tree Characteristics: Medium vigorous, upright type. Fruit buds not very hardy.
Productiveness: Poor, averaged only 2.72 bushels per tree, annually.
Fruit Characteristics: Freestone type; yellow; fairly large; averaged 4.64 peaches per pound; quality good, but not outstanding.
Uses: Used for eating while fresh or canning.
Remarks: Not recommended.

OCTOBER ELBERTA

Average Ripening Period: August 5 to 15.
Average Date of Heaviest Picking: August 8.
Tree Characteristics: Medium vigorous, upright grower; fruit buds not very hardy.
Productiveness: Poor producer, averaged only 1.90 bushels per tree.
Fruit Characteristics: Very large, averaged 3.42 peaches per pound; yellow flesh; other characteristics similar to Elberta.
Uses: Same as Elberta.
Remarks: Much more susceptible to brown rot than Elberta; not recommended.
Average Ripening Period: August 29 to September 10.
Average Date of Heaviest Picking: September 9.
Tree Characteristics: Very vigorous; very upright type; buds and wood hardy.
Productiveness: Best producing late peach in the test; averaged over 7 bushels per tree in 1929 and 1930, but five-year average was 3.25 bushels per tree. It is late coming into bearing but when full grown is a heavy producer.
Fruit Characteristics: Large, 4.84 peaches per pound; spherical in shape; lemon yellow, very faintly blushed with carmine; freestone type; deep yellow flesh, fine in texture, juicy, and good quality.
Uses: Especially good for local market, eating fresh, pickling, and canning.
Remarks: Very susceptible to brown rot. The best late peach in the test. If brown rot is controlled, it is a very profitable variety.

SUMMARY
1. The five highest producing varieties averaged as follows in bushels per tree: Hiley, 5.32; Mannie Ross, 5.00; Belle of Georgia, 4.91; Captain Ede, 4.79; Carman, 4.73.
2. The second five averaged as follows: Engle Mammoth, 4.67; Elberta, 3.67; Krummel’s Late, 3.25; Greensboro, 3.13; Arp Beauty, 2.75.
3. The six lowest producers averaged as follows: Late Crawford, 2.72; Lucy Bunn, 2.58; October Elberta, 1.90; J. H. Hale, 1.71; Salway, 1.67; and June Elberta, 1.53 bushels per tree, annually, for 5 years.
4. The five varieties having the largest average fruit were: Lucy Bunn, 154 peaches per bushel or 3.06 per pound; Elberta, 159 per bushel or 3.18 per pound; June Elberta, 168 per bushel or 3.36 per pound; Salway, 168 per bushel or 3.36 per pound; October Elberta, 171 per bushel or 3.42 per pound.
5. The second five averaged as follows: J. H. Hale, 194 per bushel or 3.88 per pound; Captain Ede, 223 per bushel or 4.46 per pound; Late Crawford, 232 per bushel or 4.64 per pound; Belle of Georgia, 241 per bushel or 4.82 per pound; and Krummel’s Late, 242 peaches per bushel or 4.84 per pound.
6. The six varieties having the smallest average fruit follow: Carman, 243 peaches per bushel or 4.86 per pound; Mannie Ross, 250 per bushel or 5.00 per pound; Engle Mammoth, 269 per bushel or 5.38 per pound; Greensboro, 272 per bushel or 5.44 per pound; Hiley, 274 per bushel or 5.48 per pound; and Arp Beauty, 319 per bushel or 6.38 per pound as an average of five years.
7. The quality of each variety is described on pages three to thirteen under “Variety Notes.”

RECOMMENDATIONS
For Delta home orchards or local markets the following varieties are recommended in ripening order: 1, Mayflower; 2, Vainquer; 3, Red Bird Cling; 4, Carman; 5, Hiley; 6, Belle of Georgia; 7, Early Elberta; 8, Elberta; 9, Chinese Cling; 10, Krummel’s Late.

For commercial orchards the following varieties are recommended: 1, Carman; 2, Hiley; 3, Early Elberta (not June Elberta); 4, Elberta.

APPENDIX
No section can produce more or better peaches than the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta. The above notes and data set forth satisfactory and desirable varieties. From well-cared-for orchards some peaches may be expected the third growing season, a fair crop the fourth year, and bountiful crops thereafter.