Before you plant, consider

DECIDUOUS FRUIT VARIETY TESTS

By Leland Burkhart
Department of Horticulture

One hundred and fifty varieties of deciduous fruits have been or are being tested at the University of Arizona orchard at Mesa. Successful varieties are reported to the public; and as soon as a variety is found unsuited to this area, it is discarded and a new one put in its place for testing.

This testing program has been under way at Mesa since 1949. Such testing is necessary because many varieties on the market are not adapted to Arizona, and, if planted either commercially or in the home "orchard," would lead to disappointment.

On the basis of productivity, quality, and ripening period, certain varieties are found to be superior. Presumably, varieties successful at Mesa would be suitable in other locations in Southern Arizona where conditions are similar to those at Mesa.

The Mesa test orchard consists mainly of peaches, apricots, and plums—however, apples, pears and nectarines are included.

Peaches

The superior peach varieties are those maturing before mid-July. Springtime varieties are the earliest ripening peach in the West. Blazing Gold is the earliest yellow-fleshed variety now in the plantings. Recently, new and attractive flowering peaches with edible fruit have been developed in the Southwest, namely Daily News, Altair, and Saturn—they bloom very early.

Additional new varieties planted in recent years require more time for evaluating fruit characteristics. Also, each year new releases developed by fruit breeders require testing in various localities in order to determine their adaptability.

The lack of chilling during the winter period has been a limiting factor in the adaptability of peaches in the lower elevations of Arizona. There have been...

SUPEIROS FRUIT VARIETIES
(Mesa Experiment Station)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Ripening Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PEACHES:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin</td>
<td>Late May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadow Lark</td>
<td>Early June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starking</td>
<td>Mid-June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delicious</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redwing</td>
<td>Late June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Elberta</td>
<td>Early July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLUMS:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beauty</td>
<td>Late May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climax</td>
<td>Early June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollywood</td>
<td>June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Rosa</td>
<td>June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariposa</td>
<td>Early July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duarte</td>
<td>July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelsey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRICOTS:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reeves</td>
<td>Late May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal</td>
<td>Early June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wenatchee</td>
<td>Mid-June</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Deciduous fruit experimental orchard, University of Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station, Mesa. Hollywood plum at left proves to be well adapted. Trees planted early Spring, 1949. Photographed May 24, 1955.

Superior as early table grapes. Other grape varieties recently planted at the Mesa Station include Calmeria, Crystal, Queen, Beauty, Black Rose and Italia. Black Mission and Kadota fig varieties are suitable. The Hachiya persimmon is attractive as a late fruit, maturing in October.

Apricots

The superior apricot varieties ripen during late May and June. Some apricot varieties are not consistent bearers, in part due to blossom injury by late frost. One of the most promising apricot varieties is the Reeves. This is an early variety and through proper orchard management its fruit can be developed into a suitable larger size, for premium marketing. The Royal is the consistent bearer.

Other Fruits

Of 15 grape varieties tested, Cardinal, Perlette, and Thompson have proven superior as early table grapes. Other grape varieties recently planted at the Mesa Station include Calmeria, Crystal, Queen, Beauty, Black Rose and Italia. Black Mission and Kadota fig varieties are suitable. The Hachiya persimmon is attractive as a late fruit, maturing in October.

Planting Suggestions

Planting time is January or February. Your local nurseryman or county agricultural agent can help you select fruit varieties best for your locality, and help with planting procedures. If interested in apricots and plums, be cautious of locations along lower portions of valleys, where late frost is more likely to damage blossoms.