

under the name of *Excelsior*, and has also been called *Hale's Hardy*, because Mr. Hale, a very prominent peach grower in Connecticut, first grew it extensively. The name *Excelsior*, however, was found to be confusing, because there was also a peach cultivated under the name *Prince's Excelsior*. The United States Division of Pomology decided to give it the name of its original introducer, Mr. Crosby.

Mr. VanDeman, of the United States Division of Pomology, describes it as follows: Size, medium, about two inches in diameter; shape, round or oblate, sometimes being compressed towards the apex; cavity, medium; suture, moderately deep, and extending from the base to beyond the apex, often causing the tip to be sunken; color, bright yellow with crimson splashes and stripes, very attractive; skin, moderately thick, with short pubescence; flesh, bright yellow, red at the stone, juicy; stone, small, blunt, parting readily from the flesh; flavor, mild sub-acid, rich; quality, above medium; season, the last week in September in Massachusetts, ripening just before Crawford's Late.

We wrote Mr. J. H. Hale, the famous peach grower of South Glastonbury, Conn., regarding this peach, asking his opinion with reference to the correctness of the colored plate we are using. He writes as follows: "Your plate of the Crosby peach was made from extra selected specimens grown on young trees, in a high state of cultivation, and so represents the greatest possibilities of this variety, while the plate shown by Mr. VanDeman in his report was made from average specimens, grown in sod on trees twelve or thirteen years old. Both these specimens were grown in Northern Massachusetts, just on the border of New Hampshire. The Crosby is an abundant bearer, and most of the trees I have seen fruiting for some years past have been overloaded. The fruit runs of a good even size, averaging about two to two-and-a-quarter inches in diameter. It is the most attractive yellow peach I have ever seen, with small pit, and of excellent quality; still, it is not so large as the Crawford, and I do not think that it would sell so well in the market as that variety when abundant. But, in my opinion, the Crosby, on account of the hardiness of its fruit buds, will produce full crops many years when there are no Crawfords or other peaches of that class. I have a three-year-old orchard here of Mountain Rose, Crawford, Old Mixon, Stump, not bearing this year or last, but two hundred trees of Crosby, in the same lot, are full of fruit, as they were also last year, and they are only in their second summer. We, who know the Crosby best in New England, think that in it we have a variety which can be depended upon to fruit at least four years out of five. In fact, the trees in the States of Massachusetts and New Hampshire are now loaded with their tenth successive crop. Old orchards of assorted varieties are fruiting well this season, and we expect to harvest ten or twelve thousand bushels. The prices are high, as there is little to come from the south to us."

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