

THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST



*** JUNE ***

THE SNEED PEACH.

A promising early variety for home use and near markets.

ORIGIN; Tennessee, by Judge Sneed, of Memphis, about 1880, from a pit of the Chinese Cling.

TREE; vigorous, but slender in young growth; productive, an early bearer.

FRUIT; medium, about 2 x 2 inches in diameter, roundish oval, slightly one-sided; skin, light greenish white, with red cheek, and short thick down; cavity narrow and deep, with distinct suture, and a small pointed apex, in a slight depression.

FLESH; semi-cling; color, yellowish white at maturity; texture, tender, fine, very juicy; flavor mild, vinous, pleasant.

SEASON; July 20th and 30th, 1900.

QUALITY; dessert, good.

VALUE; home market, fair; distant market, useless.

THE earliest peach to ripen in our experimental orchard at Maplehurst, in 1900, was the Sneed, which began to mature about the 20th of July. At one time there was great profit in early varieties. Thirty years ago we began with Early Purple, which ripened about the 20th of August. One season we had such good prices for that variety that we set quite a large orchard of it. The fruit was excellent if you ate it just at the nick of time, but alas! if you left it an hour too long it was all juice, and could not be ship-

ped a mile from home. Then came Hale, which ripened about the 15th of August, and colored up so beautifully on the trees, but was so disappointing when you tried to bite it. Firm was it? Why it would not get ripe enough to eat unless you knew just how to handle it, but usually it chose to rot first, in a large section, as suddenly as if struck by fire blight. But it sold well, and that was the chief consideration for the grower. Since its introduction we have many claimants before us as early varieties, such as Amsden's June, Early Canada, Louise, Rivers and Alexander, the latter of which ripens toward the end of July, and has a very attractive appearance, if well grown. But Crawfords, and other better varieties from the South and from California began pouring into our markets by cold storage from Florida and Southern California, and thus crowded out our inferior varieties of early peaches, until it now scarcely pays us to grow them at all in the commercial orchard.

The Sneed adds one more to the list of these early varieties, bringing in the peach season still earlier than Alexander. Last year it ri-