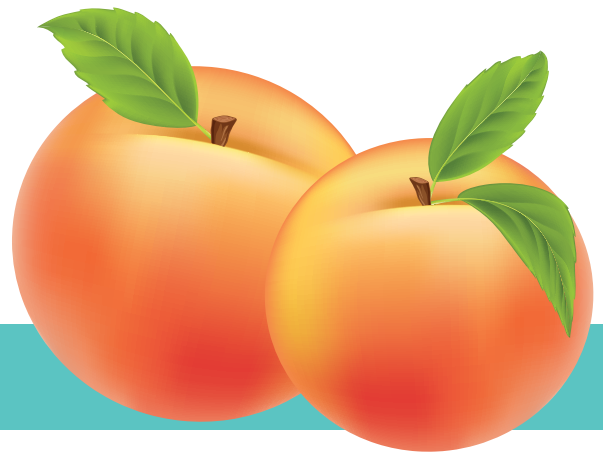


# ZAMZOWS

## Backyard Berry & Fruit Fest



## Basic Peach Care

### Feeding

Three feedings of Dr. JimZ Chicken Soup for The Soil will assure your trees are healthy and productive. Begin feeding in March per the label instructions. Another feedings in June for the developing and ripening fruit is recommended. Avoid fertilizers with high amounts of nitrogen, which lead to excessive growth, poor fruit quality, and increased insects and diseases.

### Water

Newly planted and younger trees will need more frequent watering than established trees because their roots will be shallower when they are young. But as they mature, trees should be watered longer and less frequently because watering deeply promotes root growth, giving your trees access to a greater variety of nutrients. Established fruit trees' roots reach up to two feet deep.

### Fruiting

Peach and Nectarine trees produce fruit on the previous year's long stems and on short branches called spurs, each of which will bear fruit for several years. Each year cut out a portion of the older fruiting wood to keep rejuvenating the tree. Prune back each of last year's stems to half its length. If all of last year's growth is pruned off, then little or no fruit is produced. To find last year's growth, look for limbs that are smooth and light green in color. Older limbs will be gray/brown. Along last year's limb will be several buds. Smaller-sized buds will give rise to leaves where large buds will become flowers and potentially fruit. Pruning should be done to maintain 3 to 5 load bearing limbs.

### Pruning

Pruning of peaches and nectarines is required yearly in late winter or early spring. Remove all limbs that have been damaged or died during the winter. Then remove any limbs that are crossing over another. Remove any branches that open the trees canopy for more sun and more consistent spray coverage. Fruit spurs should be no closer than 4 to 6 inches apart. Keep these factors in mind when choosing which branches to remove.

1. Is it fruit-bearing or not?
2. Will future growth cause crowding?

After pruning in spring, it's recommended to spray dormant oil. Dormant oil will suffocate overwintering bugs, eggs, larvae, and reduce incidences of diseases. pruning sealer can be used on 2 inch or larger limbs to help resist the entry of peach tree borers.

### Fruit Thinning

Peaches and nectarines will often produce more fruit than they can handle. Proper thinning of excessive fruit increases quality and size. Thin flower clusters with multiple fruit sets should be thinned to a single fruit. Fruit spurs should be spaced 4-6 inches apart. Any spurs developing closer than 4-6 inches, should be removed to prevent overcrowding. A limb should never need additional support for its fruit. Branches that begin to bend because of fruit need to be thinned.

### Harvest

The timing of harvest varies for each variety of apple and pear. Some will ripen as early as June and as late as August.