



PEACHES & NECTARINES

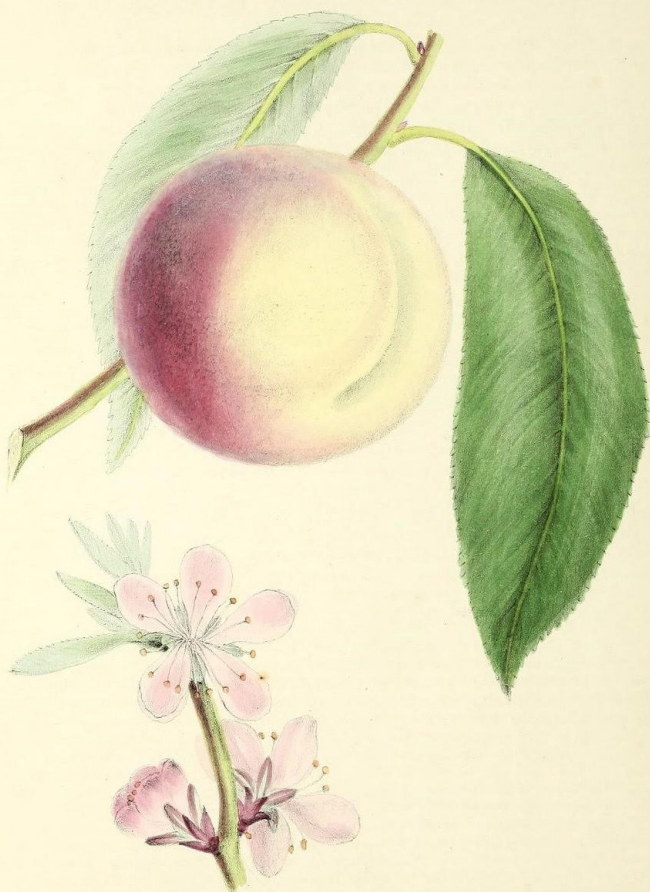
FROM THE
ANDERSON'S
FRUIT GROWING GUIDE
BY MARK ANDERSON

PEACHES & NECTARINES

Many gardeners seek the amazing flavor of peach and nectarine, but are unaware of the work requirements to successfully grow them. Isn't that usually the case? The most sought-after fruits need the most care and attention. Peaches prefer dry, hot summers and moderately cold winters. However, late frost, too cold of winter, and excess spring rain can cause havoc with fruit production and even kill the tree itself. These trees will keep you busy all spring & summer; you'll be pruning, protecting from cold, preventing disease and insects, thinning, harvesting & storing and then start the process all over again.

Most peaches and nectarines are self-fruitful, but there are a few that need pollinators. As for the fruit, they can be clingstone (flesh adheres to the pit), freestone (flesh separates fairly easily from the pit), or semi-freestone (somewhere in between the two). Nectarines differ from peach in only a few aspects: their skin is smooth instead of fuzzy; flavor is exceptionally sweet, yet tart and acidic at the same time, and nectarines are more susceptible to certain insects and diseases than peaches. The challenges are well worth the rewards.

A standard peach or nectarine grows up to 20-25 feet and approximately 15-20 feet wide. However, when properly pruned, these trees can easily be maintained at a manageable 10-12 feet tall and wide. They can take up to 3-4 years to produce fruit, but it's not uncommon for them to produce a few fruits the first year. They reach peak production at about 8-12 years after planting. To produce properly, peach and nectarine need 600-900 hours of temperature below 45 degrees during the winter months, so cold is essential to their success. However, excessive winter temperatures (anything below 0 degrees Fahrenheit) and rapidly fluctuating daytime temperatures from the 40's down into the single digits can do severe damage. In areas with late frost, try to avoid early blooming varieties as they are subject to crop loss from the freezing temperatures.



Location: Open site in full sun, with good air circulation. Peach and Nectarine do best in landscape or garden locations and not in lawn, which needs a different water and fertilizer regimen. Since they produce very early blossoms, they perform best if given some protection from cold late-winter and early spring winds. Plant trees between 15-25 feet apart depending on the ultimate size you want to prune them to grow.

Soil: Deep garden, loamy soil works best - well drained, not soggy.. Avoid heavy clay or overly sandy soils.

Planting: See attached bare root and container planting guide.

Water: To ensure steady fruit development from bloom to harvest, make sure to provide regular water throughout the growing season - usually a deep watering every 5-10 days depending on heat and sun exposure. As the fruit begins to ripen and approach harvest, continue to water thoroughly and at regular intervals so the soil does not dry out completely in between waterings.

Fertilizer: Use a balanced fertilizer in early spring with micronutrients to maintain consistent growth and fruit production. We recommend Anderson's Best: That's All It Takes, Fertilome Fruit, Nut and Pecan food, or Natural Guard Organic Fruit and Citrus Fertilizer. A good rule of thumb is to use 1/2 to 1 pound of fertilizer per inch of trunk diameter (2 cups generally equals 1 pound). Spread fertilizer evenly around the drip line of the tree.

Pruning: Peach and nectarine need more pruning than other Prunus family trees because of their nature to produce only on 1-year-old branches. Severe annual pruning will renew the fruiting wood, open the tree up for good air circulation, and help spread fruit production throughout the tree. Good fruit distribution is important to prevent fruit set at the ends of the branches, which are more likely sag and break. Even with good pruning practices, peaches and nectarines produce too much fruit that will need to be thinned. When fruit develops to about 1" in diameter, thin to one fruit every 8-10 inches on the branches.

Once the trees have matured and have been trained into an open vase shape at your desired height, they require heavy pruning each season. Each year remove any damaged or diseased branches. This can be done any time after bloom or during dormant season. Each spring, take out approximately one-half to two-thirds of the previous year's growth and head back the remaining branches to one-third of their length to encourage new wood development. Also, see our pruning guide for more pruning instructions for stone fruits.

Harvest & Yield: When harvesting, pick the fruit when it has colored up and when it is firm, but twists easily off the tree. Most peaches and nectarines ripen mid-summer through early fall. Each tree will usually produce 50-70 pounds of fruit depending on location, fertilizer, variety and rootstock.



Pests: Aphids love to attack all trees in the Prunus family. To best control the aphids, use a dormant spray/fungicide combo during the late dormant season or even just as the buds start to swell in early spring. During the growing season (even right up until harvest), apply a general-purpose insecticide as needed. Fertilome Fruit Tree Spray (organic), Sevin, or Malathion are all excellent insecticides for the job. Lady Bugs will also do a great job at controlling aphid outbreaks.

Peach Tree Borer also consistently attack both peach and nectarine trees. Watch for small holes in the trunk, especially near the base, with sap oozing from the holes from early spring to mid-summer. Borers target stressed or damaged trees and disrupt the sap flow through the tree by damaging the tissue right under the bark that transports water and nutrient to all parts of the tree. Their damage can severely harm the tree, causing leaf and branch dieback, and eventually kill the entire tree. We recommend an application of Permethrin to the trunk and crotches of the lower branches during the dormant season, and then once in late May, and again in early July to control the adults as they emerge from the trees and begin laying eggs for the next generation.

One of the most difficult insects to control on Nectarines are Thrips. Thrips feed on forming fruit as well as when the fruit begins to ripen, causing both russeting (rough, scab-like sections that deform the fruit) and silvering (which appears more like silvery veins on the skin of the fruit). Both these types of damage affect fruit quality and appearance. The most important times to monitor for thrip activity is during bloom season, and again just as the fruit begins to ripen. Any presence of thrips on 10% of the blossoms or fruit warrant an application of a safe and effective organic insecticide such as Spinosad Soap.

Blossom blight, shot-hole fungus, and brown rot are some of the most common diseases that affect peaches & nectarines. Prevent disease by starting the season with a dormant spray/fungicide combination. Next, apply a general-purpose fungicide right after blossom drop. To prevent shot-hole fungus and blossom blight, continue to apply fungicide every 2 weeks during the cool, wet season of spring. It is essential to spray again in the fall, at about 25% leaf drop to stop these harmful diseases from permanently damaging your trees. For a good general-purpose fungicide, we recommend Copper Soap (organic), F-Stop by Fertilome or Complete Disease Control from

ARCTIC JAY WHITE NECTARINE

Very attractive, firm, freestone fruit is richly flavored, with a balance of acid and sugar. It has pinkish-red skin with crisp white flesh. The Arctic Jay is easy to work with for baking and processing. It's high sugar levels and pleasant acidity make it great for eating out of hand. #1 for sweetness in national taste-tests

Mature Height: 12'-15'

Mature Spread: 12'-15'

Sun Exposure: Full Sun

Flavor: Sweet

Cooking/Storage: Good for cooking.

Bloom Period: Mid-Spring

Pollinator Required: No

Harvest Period: Mid-August

Zones: 5-9



FANTASIA

Fantasia is a popular large, yellow, freestone nectarine with bright red skin. This is a self-fruitful tree making it a good choice for homes with only a little room for trees. The fruit is firm and tangy when harvested early, but very sweet when allowed to mature. They are very vigorous and should be pruned and thinned early every year for consistent quality crops.

Mature Height: 12'-18'

Mature Spread: 12'-18'

Sun Exposure: Full/Partial

Flavor: Sweet and rich / Tangy when picked early

Cooking/Storage: Great fresh, cooked, dried, etc.

Bloom Period: Mid-Season

Pollinator Required: No

Harvest Period: August

Zones: 5-8



FLAVORTOP

Flavortop is a yellow fleshed, freestone nectarine that is firm, smooth-textured and of excellent quality. The tree is vigorous, productive and self-fertile. The start of Flavortop's season has this nectarine tree flaunting remarkably handsome blossoms that are the color of pink cotton candy. Flavortop ripens in mid-season, before Fantasia and after Firebite. These nectarines are large and juicy, with flesh that is yellow, sweet and divinely delicious.

Mature Height: 12'-18'

Mature Spread: 10'-15'

Sun Exposure: Full

Flavor: Sweet

Cooking/Storage: Great for both.

Bloom Period: mid-Spring

Pollinator Required: No

Harvest Period: July-August

Zones: 5-8



RED GOLD

The Red Gold nectarine delivers a high quality fruit with a great shelf life. The fruit is large sized, spherical shape, and it has a deep yellow peel that covers for 50-70% by dark red. It is juicy, sweet and top quality for cobblers. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. It can be susceptible to disease and late frosts.

Mature Height: 12'-18'

Mature Spread: 10'-15'

Sun Exposure: Full

Flavor: Sweet

Cooking/Storage: Great for both

Bloom Period: mid-Spring

Pollinator Required: No

Harvest Period: mid-August

Zones: 5



BLAZINGSTAR

Blazingstar is a freestone peach with a 90% blush. The yellow flesh does not brown when cut. It is very sweet, firm, and juicy. It is one of the hardiest peaches and is resistant to bacterial spot and peach canker. This is a good peach for cold climates. Particularly those areas with late frosts because of its bud hardiness.

Mature Height: 12'-18'

Mature Spread: 12'-18'

Sun Exposure: Full

Flavor: Sweet

Cooking/Storage: Good for both.

Bloom Period: Mid-Spring

Pollinator Required: No

Harvest Period: August

Zones: 4-8



BLUSHINGSTAR

BlushingStar is an incredible new easy-care white peach. It is deep pinkish-red with a white background. It has the distinctive flavor of a white peach with a pleasing aroma. The flesh has a unique, sweet flavor and resists browning when cut. It is disease-resistant to bacterial spot. Cold hardy. Freestone.

Mature Height: 12'-15'

Mature Spread: 12'-15'

Sun Exposure: Full Sun

Flavor: Sweet

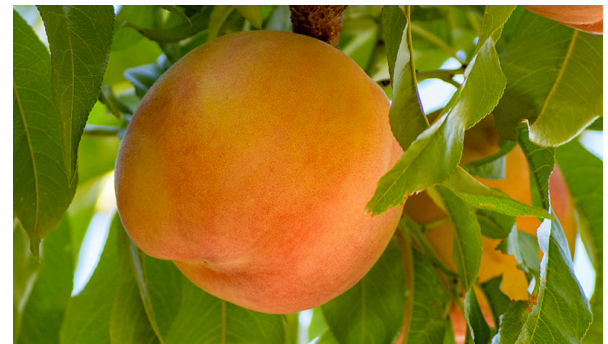
Cooking/Storage: Good storage.

Bloom Period: Mid-Season

Pollinator Required: No

Harvest Period: Late-August

Zones: 4-8



CANADIAN HARMONY

What Canadian Harmony lacks in the way of appearance it certainly makes up for in flavor. The harmony peach is large freestone peach that is very juicy and delicious. The peach has a longer shelf life than other peaches. This would make a great peach for canning, because they are large, so there is less work to do and it's easy to remove their pits.

Mature Height: 10'-18'

Mature Spread: 10'-15'

Sun Exposure: Full

Flavor: Sweet with a little acidity to balance.

Cooking/Storage: Great for storage (processing).

Good for cooking, but is extra juicy.

Bloom Period: Late Blooming

Pollinator Required: No

Harvest Period: Mid to Late- August

Zones: 5-8



CONTENDER

This disease resistant peach is perfect for our area. Frost tolerant blooms. This cold hardy variety produces large crops of sweet, juicy medium to large fruit. Freestone. Ripens mid to late August.

Mature Height: 12'-15'

Mature Spread: 12'-15'

Sun Exposure: Full Sun

Flavor: Sweet

Cooking/Storage: Good storage.

Bloom Period: Mid-Season

Pollinator Required: No.

Harvest Period: Mid-Late August

Zones: 4-8



CORALSTAR

Coralstar is a beautiful, large, freestone peach that is mostly blushed with a coral red. The flesh is firm and clear with wonderful sweet flavor. The fruit holds well on the tree and is not prone to browning. Coralstar is very hardy and resistant to bacterial spot. This is one of the best peaches in terms of storage and freezing.

Mature Height: 10'-18'

Mature Spread: 10'-15'

Sun Exposure: Full

Flavor: Sweet

Cooking/Storage: Great.

Bloom Period: Mid-Spring

Pollinator Required: No.

Harvest Period: Late-August

Zones: 4-8



DONUT STARK SATURN

'Saturn' peach trees produce an abundant harvest, and the fruit's thin red skin has little or no fuzz so it doesn't have to be peeled. It's a unique white-fleshed fruit with a sunken center shaped like a doughnut. It is low in acidity, much sweeter than yellow peaches and has almond overtones. 'Saturn' peaches simply taste better than other varieties. Plus, they're easier to eat out of hand. The tiny pit doesn't cling to the white flesh — you can easily pop it out with your thumb.

Mature Height: 12'-15'

Mature Spread: 12'-15'

Sun Exposure: Full Sun

Flavor: Sweet

Cooking/Storage: Good for cooking

Bloom Period: Mid-Season

Pollinator Required: No.

Harvest Period: Mid-August

Zones: 5-10



ELBERTA

Most popular of all peaches because of their abundance of taste, attractive color and disease resistance. These trees are even insect resistant. This yellow freestone is juicy, ideal for eating, canning and freezing. Plump rose-blushed fruits have fabulous aroma and honey-sweet taste—absolutely bursting with flavor. It is covered in gorgeous pink flowers in Spring.

Mature Height: 12'-18'

Mature Spread: 10'-15'

Sun Exposure: Full

Flavor: Honey-sweet

Cooking/Storage: One of the best for both.

Bloom Period: Early to Mid-Spring

Pollinator Required: No

Harvest Period: September

Zones: 5-9



EARLY ELBERTA

This is an early ripening version of the world famous Elberta peach. It's rich, sweet, yellow flesh and golden yellow, red blushed skin make the Early Elberta the best there is. This peach variety ripens in late July, just in time for summertime picnics and homemade pie. Enjoy eating fresh, sliced in a bowl and covered with cream, canning, drying, juice and jams and jellies. The fruit is preceded by a showy spring display of fragrant pink flowers.

Mature Height: 12'-18'

Mature Spread: 12'-15'

Sun Exposure: Full

Flavor: Rich, sweet

Cooking/Storage: Great for both.

Bloom Period: Mid-Spring

Pollinator Required: No

Harvest Period: Late July

Zones: 5-8



FLAMING FURY (PF-24 007)

Flamin' Fury® PF 24-007™ peach is an extremely large freestone peach that features an 80% red blush. Resistant to bacterial spot, this tree requires very little pruning or thinning and yields few split pits. PF 24-007 ripens in mid-season, and is the holder of a Guinness Book of World Records title for being the largest peach! The flesh is juicy-sweet and firm giving it a good shelf life.

Mature Height: 12'-18'

Mature Spread: 12'-15'

Sun Exposure: Full

Flavor: Sweet/juicy

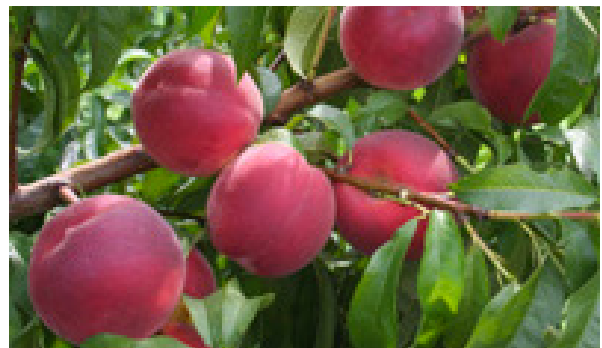
Cooking/Storage: Good for both.

Bloom Period: Mid-season

Pollinator Required: No

Harvest Period: Early to Mid-August

Zones: 5-8



GLOWINGSTAR

GlowingStar is a large, uniform ripening peach that is bright red with a yellow background has a nice balance of acidity and sweetness. The fruit is firm, yellow fleshed, and non-browning. Since they are freestone, they make great peaches to use in canning.

Mature Height: 12'-15'

Mature Spread: 12'-15'

Sun Exposure: Full Sun

Flavor: Sweet

Cooking/Storage: Good storage & canning.

Bloom Period: Mid-Season

Pollinator Required: No

Harvest Period: Late August

Zones: 4-8



HARKEN

Red-skinned medium size yellow freestone is sweet and flavorful with non-browning flesh. Excellent for dessert, freezing and canning. One of the highest rated peaches for sweetness and flavor.

Mature Height: 12'-15'

Mature Spread: 12'-15'

Sun Exposure: Full sun

Flavor: Sweet

Cooking/Storage: Good for cooking.

Bloom Period: Mid-Season

Pollinator Required: No

Harvest Period: Mid-August

Zones: 5-9



J.H. HALE

J.H. Hale is an old-time heirloom variety that has withstood the test of time. It is an excellent flavored, freestone eating and canning peach. J.H. Hale is one of the few peaches that is not totally self-fertile. It does much better with another peach variety as a pollinator. Exceptionally large, round and uniform with smooth, almost 'fuzzless' skin. Superb flavor.

Mature Height: 12'-18'

Mature Spread: 12'-18'

Sun Exposure: Full

Flavor: Sweet, rich

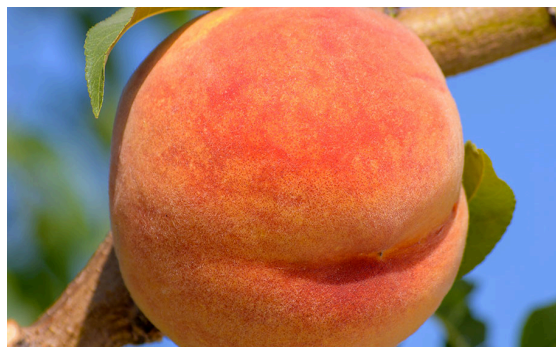
Cooking/Storage:

Bloom Period: Mid-Spring

Pollinator Required: No, but it is recommended.

Harvest Period: September (same as Elberta)

Zones: 5-8



PF LUCKY 13

Lucky 13 produces a very firm peach that can almost be described as a “crunch” when bitten into. Because of this firmness it lasts on the tree and has an extremely long shelf-life. While it is firm fruit it is still deliciously juicy and sweet. The tree is spreading, and very productive. This variety showed very hardy characteristics and is resistant to bacterial spot.

Mature Height: 12’-18’

Mature Spread: 12’-18’

Sun Exposure: Full

Flavor: Juicy

Cooking/Storage: Good for both.

Bloom Period: Mid-Spring

Pollinator Required: No

Harvest Period: Early to Mid-August

Zones: 5-8



RED GLOBE

This is a large freestone peach with beautiful firm, sweet flesh. This red skinned peach has one of the finest flavors ever developed. It is superb for fresh eating, cooking, and processing. The tree is productive, but the buds and showy spring flowers can be susceptible to early frosts. A highly blushed red over a golden background color, it is one the most attractive peaches of its season

Mature Height: 12’-18’

Mature Spread: 10’-15’

Sun Exposure: Full

Flavor: Sweet

Cooking/Storage: Great for both.

Bloom Period: Mid-Spring

Pollinator Required: No.

Harvest Period: Early to Mid-August

Zones: 5-8



REDHAVEN

This is the peach all other peaches are judged against. Redhaven ripens early in the season and is usually freestone, although some years it can be a little “clingy”. It is a heavy producer with a long shelf life. The flesh is yellow with a little red near the pit. It is juicy, sweet, and very tasty. The tree is one of the more hardy varieties, very productive, and has good resistance to bacteria spot. Can be used for all purposes.

Mature Height: 12’-18’

Mature Spread: 10’-15’

Sun Exposure: Full to partial

Flavor: Sweet

Cooking/Storage: Good for both.

Bloom Period: Mid-Spring

Pollinator Required: No

Harvest Period: Late-July to Mid-August

Zones: 5-9



REDSTAR

Redstar® ripens with Redhaven and is a large, round, freestone peach with an 80% rich, red color. Flesh is yellow with a pleasing sugar/acid flavor balance. These fruits are firm making them good for shipping, but tend to have a slight attachment to the pit like Redhaven. The tree has a spreading habit and is very hardy. It is very productive and has good resistance to bacterial spot and peach canker.

Mature Height: 12'-18'

Mature Spread: 10'-15'

Sun Exposure: Full to Partial

Flavor: Sweet

Cooking/Storage: Good for both.

Bloom Period: Mid-Spring

Pollinator Required: No

Harvest Period: Late-July to Mid-August

Zones: 4-9



RELIANCE

Bears full crops of delicious, honey-sweet peaches after temperatures fall to 25° below zero. Reliance is a top quality, med-large peach that is beautiful and round with yellow skin splashed with a bright red blush. It is freestone even in the coldest, driest seasons and has a pit smaller than any other peach. It is one of the hardiest peaches and can be grown in areas where most varieties are marginal at best.

Mature Height: 12'-18'

Mature Spread: 10'-15'

Sun Exposure: Full to Partial

Flavor: Honey-sweet

Cooking/Storage: Good for both, but great for canning.

Bloom Period: April

Pollinator Required: No.

Harvest Period: Mid to Late-July into August

Zones: 4-9



STARFIRE

Starfire is a medium to medium-large, scarlet orange-red over yellow freestone peach. The flesh is clear yellow with some red around a small pit. It is firm, very juicy and sweet. Good for canning, freezing, cooking and baking. The tree is vigorous and productive, with low susceptibility to bacterial spot and canker. Cold tolerant. Hardy.

Mature Height: 12'-15'

Mature Spread: 12'-15'

Sun Exposure: Full Sun

Flavor: Sweet

Cooking/Storage: Good for cooking and storage.

Bloom Period:

Pollinator Required: No.

Harvest Period: Late-August

Zones: 5-8



VETERAN

Veteran has a round-oblate shape (flattened on the end). It has yellow to yellow orange skin. The yellow flesh is freestone and sweet. Fruit peels easily without scalding and has a rich flavor when canned. Bruises easily, This old time favorite is extremely cold hardy.

Mature Height: 12'-15'

Mature Spread: 12'-15'

Sun Exposure: Full Sun

Flavor: Sweet

Cooking/Storage: Good canning.

Bloom Period: Late

Pollinator Required: No.

Harvest Period: Late-August

Zones: 5-8





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