



Peaches and Nectarines

UC DAVIS
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

About Peaches and Nectarines

Peaches and Nectarines are stone fruits that grow as round bushy trees 4-6 m high and 3-5 m in diameter. Flower buds form on 1 year old shoots and initiation occurs in late summer. Bud burst is in early spring with fruit ripening in mid- to late-summer.



Climate and soil

Temperature	Frost tolerance	Water needs	Tolerance to waterlogging	Drought tolerance
Prefers temperate with warm summers	-4°C damages buds. Small fruit damaged at -1°C	Requires plenty of water	Not tolerant	Moderate

Humidity tolerance	Wind tolerance	Soil needs	Nutrient requirements
Prefer dry climates.	Moderate	Prefers light well-drained soil	Often requires foliar micro-nutrient applications

Cultural practices

Propagation	Budding is most common.
Rootstocks	Peach seedlings normally used..
Spacing	Plant on 6 m square or plant in 2-3 m rows 4.0-5.0 m apart
Training and Pruning	Train as open center Prune to encourage new growth. Time of pruning depends on local diseases.
Thinning	Hand thin to maximize fruit size – how many? Spacing?
Tillage and orchard care	Grassed alleyways often used. Keep surface around trees clean.
Time to 1st harvest	2-3 years or 1-2 years for close planted crops
Time to full production	4-6 years
Normal productive life	10-20 years
Expected yields	2 years: 5 t/ha 4 years: 20 t/ha 6 years: 40 t/ha
Harvest	Hand harvest for fresh. Mechanical harvest for processing
Storage	5 weeks at 0°C
Pests and diseases	Peach twig borer, Oriental fruit moth, peach tree borer, leafrollers, spider mites and aphids. Various diseases affect peaches and nectarines and vary with location.

Prepared by MA Bell, Louise Ferguson and Ali Almehdi, February 16 2007

Primary reference: Jackson, D.I. and Looney, N.E. 1999. Temperate and Subtropical Fruit Production. 2nd Ed. CABI Publishing. Wallingford (United Kingdom)

For more information visit: International Programs www.aes.ucdavis.edu/IntProg/Default.htm

Copyright © UC Regents Davis campus, 2007. All Rights Reserved.