



PEACHES

Peaches and nectarines are almost identical; the major difference is the fuzzy skin of the peach versus the waxy, smooth skin of the nectarine. Providing beautiful blossoms and fruit with incomparable flavor, peaches are worth the maintenance it takes to grow them in our climate.

There are genetic dwarf peaches available which only reach about 5 or 6 feet. Semi-dwarfing rootstocks such as St. Julian A will produce trees which will only reach 12-15'. Genetic dwarf peaches are natural dwarf hybrids (they have been selected not engineered). These selections are then grafted onto a standard rootstock. Genetic dwarfs have been developed to produce normal sized fruit on tightly spaced fruit buds. Therefore they require fruit thinning. These trees require little pruning and are perfect for containers.

The major problem that peaches have in this climate is peach leaf curl, which is a fungal disease which infects the bud scales in mid to late winter as the buds begin to swell. There are varieties of peaches available which are resistant to the disease. Cleanliness around infected trees and dormant sprays with copper help prevent the disease. If your tree does get it, feed it with a high nitrogen fertilizer when the first set of leaves drop (a second set of leaves will be produced). Peaches bear fruit on the previous year's growth, so it is important to get as much growth as possible in the spring.

BONANZA	Self-fertile. Genetic dwarf, growing 4-5'. Medium to large yellow fruit with red blush. Highly aromatic, freestone flesh. Often fruits the first year. Great for containers!
ELDORADO	Self-fertile. Genetic dwarf, ideal for container. Produces flavorful, freestone fruit with red blush. Ripens early August.
FROST	Self-fertile. One of the most peach leaf curl resistant varieties. Medium to large, yellow fruit with yellow freestone flesh of good flavor. Good for canning and fresh eating. Ripen in mid-August.
GARDEN GOLD	Self-fruitful. Very vigorous genetic dwarf, to 5-6'. Yellow fruit blushed red, with meltingly soft, yellow, freestone flesh of excellent flavor. Ripens in August.
PIX ZEE	Self-fruitful. Strong, vigorous genetic dwarf, to 6'. Delicious, yellow, clingstone fruit heavily blushed red. Ripens late July.