

# PEACHES & NECTARINES

(Late July to Early October)

**Description:** Soft, plump stone fruits that are yellow-orange in color with a rosy blush. They have a sweet, juicy flesh.



## You know peaches are ready when:

- Their base color will turn from green to golden or yellow. (The red hue of the foreground is not an indicator of ripeness.)
- Flesh will be soft, but not squishy.

**Schedule a harvest.** A good time to schedule is when most of the peaches have just lost their green hue and are beginning to soften.

## *We can't harvest if*

- The load is too low. Must be at least **100 lbs** of fruit.
- The fruit is **overripe**.
- The fruit is far too **underripe**. If the peaches are hard like rocks or are still greenish, let them continue to ripen on the tree and develop full flavor.

## Maintaining Your Peach Tree:

- **Pruning:** Mature peach trees require more pruning than other fruit trees because peaches only produce fruit on new growth. Pruning occurs later in the season as well, as warmer weather is needed to prevent damage from frost to the tree.
- **Watering:** Young trees need extra water to grow, while all fruit trees need additional water during periods of hot, dry weather. Thoroughly soak the soil around your fruit trees every other week. Mulching around the base of your tree can help retain soil moisture as well.
- **Thinning:** Thin fruit once they are larger than dime-sized to help encourage the remaining fruit to grow larger and tastier, as well as prevent overloaded limbs from breaking. Leave about 5 inches between fruit.
- **Harvesting:** Peaches will ripen somewhat off of the tree, but will have better flavor if picked when ripe. If peaches are still green, let them ripen on the tree longer before picking. (I promise, they're worth the wait!)
- **Disease & Pest Control:** More information on pests and diseases, [click here](#).
  - The greater peachtree borer's larvae tunnels into the cambium at the soil-line of the tree trunk. They can be detected in the form of round holes near the soil-line and oozing tree sap mixed with frass. Young trees and old or drought-stressed trees are most vulnerable.



To sign up for our tree care services, which including pruning, fertilizing, and pest control, [click here](#).

**Other Peach information:**

- Peaches come in both freestone and clingstone varieties, meaning that the flesh either separates easily from the pit or clings to the pit.

**Picking & Storage Tips:**

- Peaches bruise easily, so be careful when using a picker and/or stacking fruit while picking.
- Store unripe peaches at room temperature and refrigerate ripe peaches.
- Peaches can be dried, frozen, or canned.



**Resources:**

- [USU Extension](#)
- *The Fruit Gardener's Bible*, Hill & Perry (2011)



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