



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 the disease, 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 blushes. Highly aromatic, freestone flesh. Often fruits the first year. Great for containers!
CRIMSON ROCKET	Self-fertile columnar tree reaching 15'x5'. Sweet, smooth yellow flesh. Medium size, freestone fruit.
EMPRESS DWARF	Self-fertile. Genetic dwarf to 5'. Large fruit with glowing pink to red skin. The juicy yellow flesh has a delicious, sweet, mouthwatering flavor. Beautiful pink blooms. Clingstone. Very hardy.
FLORY	Self-fertile. Genetic dwarf, growing 4-5'. Small fruit, with white flesh. Ripens in July. Showy double red flowers.
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.
GOLDEN GLORY	Self-fertile. Genetic dwarf reaching 5'. Large golden skinned fruit with a red blush. Yellow, delicious freestone flesh. Late August to early September harvest.

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