

**Latin Name/Genus:** *Prunus persica*  
**Family:** *Rosaceae*

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Season:** Warm season

**Exposure:** Full-sun

**Zone:** Between Zones 4-10



**Timing:** Plant young peach trees in late winter or early spring, as soon as the soil can be worked, while tree is dormant; container-grown peach trees can be planted any time of the year, however, grow best when planted in early spring. Water newly-planted trees thoroughly and consistently.

**Starting:** Find a sunny yet sheltered location (at least 8 hrs/day), slightly elevated so frost won't settle. If growing in a location with other peach trees or sun-loving plants nearby, ensure tree will be planted 5.5-6m (18-20') [or if a dwarf variety, 1.5m (5')] away from those plants. Dig a hole deep enough that the top of the root ball is level with the top of the dug hole, and twice as wide; loosen roots by hand. Place tree rootball inside hole, filling back in the hole with a some compost mixed in for nutrients; mulch at the base will help keep roots cool, retain moisture, prevent run-off, improves overall soil content, and is a great weed deterrent (recommended: 1/2 cubic yard between 10-12cm deep to a radius of 1m from base for new trees, refreshing mulch regularly and pull away from trunk a bit to avoid rot); water deeply and stake if necessary immediately after planting.

**Days to Maturity:** From transplant date.

**Growing:** Ideal pH is between 6.5-7.0 for peach trees, in sandy, well-drained soil; water regularly, especially during hot/dry weather; keep soil evenly moist during the first two years during thawed periods. Water when necessary, by checking soil dampness [2.5cm (1") deep] – if damp, defer watering for another day or two. Keep soil moist until the ground freezes. Do not prune peach trees while they are dormant (this could encourage them to be less cold-hardy – pruning shoots developing in the centre of the tree at any time); prune annually just as the buds swell enough to show off their pink colouring (Feb-March). Prune to a herringbone pattern with an open centre, removing any branches in the center of tree growing downward or horizontal, thereby ensuring sunlight and air circulation to fruiting branches the following season. Thin out fruit in early summer (once tiny developing peaches are present and naturally dropping) by removing all but the largest fruits from each branch, leaving at least 15cm (6") between fruit to avoid small peaches at harvest.

**Nutrient Preferences:** Mature peach trees benefit from minimal applications of fruit tree fertilizer each spring, which allow a bit extra nitrogen and potassium for these fruiting trees; use a balanced fertilizer during the tree's first three years, as phosphorus is important for root development.



## Peach *Plant Care Information*

**Harvest:** Peach trees will begin producing small yield in their second or third season (not their first year planted), working towards full yields by their 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> season. Harvest from late June into the fall, depending on the variety.

**Companion Planting:** Peach trees love being planted near basil, chives, cosmos, dill, garlic, lemongrass, lupine, marigolds, marjoram, nasturtiums, red clover, tansy, tarragon, and other stonefruit-family trees (apricot, nectarine, plum); avoid growing near potatoes, raspberries, and tomatoes.