



Peach Tree

There is nothing quite like a fresh peach picked from your own tree. Grown mainly in the Okanagan, peaches can be successfully grown on the West Coast with a few precautions.

Planting

Peach trees should be planted in an area that receives full sun. They require dry springs and sun, so they do not develop peach leaf curl, a disease that causes the leaves to swell and become inefficient. Choose an area with well drained soil, these trees wont necessarily do in compact soils that remain consistently wet. Avoid areas with cold winds and frost. Peaches are self-fertile so they will not require another tree.

Pruning

Pruning a peach tree opens the tree and allows sunlight to shine on the fruit. This is important for healthy fruit production. Pruning peaches may take on various forms. Regular pruning will enable you to maintain a height of 15' or less. Do **not** prune during the fall due to the risk of canker. Dormant pruning of peach increases the risk of winter injury, but it can be done if the danger of frost is over and before the tree begins to actively grow.

Fertilizing

Use bone meal when planting a new tree. Fertilize once in early spring and again in late spring/early summer every year for proper growth maintenance.

Use either a granular form spread evenly over the soil, or a fertilizer spike inserted into the ground at the drip line.

Common Peach Diseases

On the West Coast, peaches have two basic diseases, peach leaf curl and gumming.

❖ Peach Leaf Curl

In spring, peach leaves start to curl and thicken with a reddish, crisp texture. Leaves then turn brown and fall off the tree. This disease can be controlled by using a **dormant spray** during winter or a **copper spray** in the early spring

❖ Gumming

Gumming occurs at the sight where damage to the bark has been done by bacterial grown or canker. Control is only done by removing the affected growth below the diseased area. Be sure to disinfect your pruners after each cut.