

Growing Temperate Tree Fruit and Nut Crops in the Home Garden and Landscape

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Varieties for Planting in the Home Garden

Where you live (your "climate zone") will determine which varieties of temperate tree fruit and nut crops will perform best in your home garden, when fruits and nuts are harvested, and which pest and disease problems are more common. This table describes *selected* varieties that are suitable for home gardeners in California. The number of varieties could easily be doubled or tripled if all heirloom varieties and newer varieties available at nurseries or through mail order were included.

Certain varieties are superb eaten fresh. Other varieties tend to be used more often for cooking, canning, and freezing. Experts do not always agree about which varieties are best suited for various uses because individual tastes differ. Thus, the comments in the table regarding these issues are offered as points of interest only, not as official advice endorsed by the UC.

Nectarine (*Prunus persica*)

Nectarines are just fuzzless peaches. They do well in most of California if given the proper growing conditions. Nectarines require very well-drained soils, abundant nitrogen fertility, plenty of summer water, fruit thinning, and pest control sprays to prevent peach leaf curl and brown rot. New variety developments have greatly improved this fruit as a tree for backyard and commercial use. Trees can bear the second year. Nectarines (like peaches) are self-fruitful and do not require a pollenizer tree. Tree spacing should be about 8 to 12 ft apart.

Rootstocks

- **Lovell Peach** - The best choice for coastal California. A seedling that tolerates wet winter soils better than any other peach rootstock. Produces a full-sized tree but one that is managed easily. Plant 8-14 ft apart.
- **Nemaguard Peach** - The best choice for the Central Valley. A nematode-resistant rootstock best adapted to sandy, dry sites that never get too wet.
- **Prunus besseyi** - Semi-dwarfing rootstock. Suckers badly. Produces inferior fruit on the scion variety. Has not performed well. Somewhat incompatible.
- **Citation** - A new peach-plum hybrid that provides some dwarfing to most varieties. Tolerates wet winter conditions. Produces trees that are smaller in caliper without any height reduction in some varieties.

Standard Varieties

- **Arctic Glo** - Small, fantastic flavor. White flesh. Early
- **Fantasia** - Large, brightly-colored yellow freestone. Late.
- **Flamekist** - Excellent quality. Large, firm, yellow, clingstone.
- **Flavortop** - Large, excellent flavor. Yellow freestone. Mid-season.
- **Goldmine** - Large, great flavor. White flesh. Freestone.
- **Heavenly White** - Large, excellent flavor. White flesh.
- **May Grand** - Large, yellow-fruited freestone. Early.
- **Panamint** - Medium-sized fruit. Red skin, golden flesh. Freestone, low chill variety.
- **Red Gold** - Large, excellent flavor. Stores well. Late.
- **Rose** - Old favorite white freestone with excellent flavor and low chilling requirement.
- **September Red** - Large, yellow. Very late.
- **Snow Queen** - Early season white freestone, juicy and tasty
- **Summer Grand** - One of the best. Large, yellow freestone.

Harvest Period

Standard Varieties	San Joaquin Valley	Sacramento Valley	Central Coast	North Coast	Sierra Nevada Foothills	Southern California
Arctic Glo	Mid June	Mid June	Early July	June	June	NA
Fantasia	Late July	August	Late August	Mid August	August	August
Flamekist	Late August	Early Sept.	September	September	September	September
Flavortop	Mid July	Late July	August	August	August	Late July
Goldmine	August	Late Aug.	September	September	September	September
Heavenly White	Late July	Late July	Mid August	Early Aug.	Early Aug.	NA
May Grand	Early June	Mid June	Late June	Late June	June	June
Panamint	Late July	Early Aug.	August	August	August	August
Red Gold	Late August	Early Sept.	September	September	September	September
Rose	Mid July	Late July	August	August	August	Late July
September Red	Late August	Early Sept.	September	September	September	September
Snow Queen	Late June	July	Late July	Late July	Late July	July
Summer Grand	Mid July	Late July	August	August	August	Late July

NA = Not Applicable due to chilling requirements

Low Chill Varieties: These nectarine varieties are adapted to the low latitudes of Southern California because they have low winter chilling requirements.

Desert Dawn, Desert Delight, Rose, Panamint, Pioneer, Silver Lode