

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.

Peach

(*Prunus persica*)

Peaches are very popular fruit trees that can be grown successfully in many parts of California. They require adequate summer watering, deep and well-drained soils, high nitrogen fertility, fruit thinning, and pest control sprays to prevent peach leaf curl and brown rot. Peach trees are short-lived trees (15-20 yr.). Peaches (like nectarines) are self-fruitful (self-compatible), which means that they do not require a pollinizer tree. Plant trees 12x16ft to 18x18 ft apart.

Rootstocks

- **Lovell Peach** - The best choice for coastal California. A seedling that tolerates wet winter soils better than any other peach rootstock, but still requires good drainage. Produces a full-sized, small 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. Full-sized tree.
- **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

Thousands of peach varieties have been developed worldwide. Some perform better in warmer areas. Others have better fruit quality when grown in cooler climates along the coast of California. Three listed below ('Veteran', 'Loring', and La Feliciana' are somewhat more disease resistant.

- **Autumn Gold** - Medium-large fruit. Yellow flesh. Keeps well.
- **Babcock** - Medium-sized. White flesh. Freestone, low chill variety.
- **Earligrande** - Excellent flavor. Yellow-red blush. Semi-freestone, low chill variety.
- **Fairtime** - Large fruit. Yellow, firm flesh. Excellent flavor.
- **Fay Elberta** - Large fruit. Yellow flesh. Freestone.
- **Forty-niner** - Large fruit. Yellow flesh. Freestone.
- **Indian Blood** - Cling peach. Red skin and flesh. Tart. Prolific.
- **La Feliciana** - Medium-sized. Firm, red. Excellent flavor.
- **Loring** - Very large fruit. Red skin. Yellow flesh. Freestone.
- **Nectar** - White flesh. Pink skin. Excellent flavor.
- **O'Henry** - One of the best. Large fruit. Yellow flesh. Freestone.
- **Redhaven** - Yellow. Semi-freestone. Needs heavy thinning.
- **Rio Oso Gem** - Very large fruit. Yellow flesh. Freestone.

- **Springcrest** - Medium-sized. Yellow flesh. Semi-freestone.
- **Suncrest** - Large fruit. Yellow flesh. Freestone. Midseason.
- **Veteran** - Red blush. Elberta-type. Freestone. Dependable, heavy producer, excellent flavor

Harvest Period

Standard Varieties	San Joaquin Valley	Sacramento Valley	Central Coast	North Coast	Sierra Nevada Foothills	Southern California
Autumn Gold	September	September	October	October	October	NA
Babcock	Late June	July	July	Late July	July	Late June
Earligrand	May	Late May	June	June	June	May
Fairtime	September	September	October	October	October	NA
Fay Elberta	Late July	August	Late Aug.	Late Aug.	August	NA
Forty-Niner	Late July	August	Late Aug.	Late Aug.	August	NA
Indian Blood	Late Aug.	Late Aug.	September	September	September	NA
La Feliciana	Mid July	Late July	August	August	Late July	NA
Loring	Late July	August	Late Aug.	Late Aug.	August	NA
Nectar	Late July	Late July	Mid Aug.	Early Aug.	August	NA
O'Henry	Late July	August	Late Aug.	Late Aug.	August	NA
Redhaven	Early July	July	Late July	Late July	July	NA
Rio Oso Gem	August	Late Aug.	September	September	September	September
Springcrest	Early June	Mid June	Late June	Late June	Late June	NA
Suncrest	Early July	July	Late July	Late July	July	NA
Veteran	Late July	August	Late Aug.	Late Aug.	August	NA

NA = Not Applicable due to chilling requirements

Low Chill Varieties: These peach varieties are adapted to the low latitudes of Southern California because they have low winter chilling requirements. August Pride, Babcock, Bonita, Desertgold, Early Amber, Earligrande, FloridaGrand, FloridaPrince, Midpride, Tropicberta, TopicSweet,