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 pollenizer 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.


- **La Feliciana** - Medium-sized. Firm, red. Excellent flavor.


- **Nectar** - White flesh. Pink skin. Excellent flavor.

- **O'Henry** - One of the best. Large fruit. Yellow flesh. Freestone.


• **Suncrest** - Large fruit. Yellow flesh. Freestone. Midseason.

• **Veteran** - Red blush. Elberta-type. Freestone. Dependable, heavy producer, excellent flavor

### Harvest Period

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

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, FlordaGrand, FlordaPrince, Midpride, Tropic-berta, TopicSweet,