

# Nectarine

DID YOU KNOW  
THAT  
NECTARINES ARE  
IN THE SAME  
FAMILY AS  
ROSES?

## CAN I GROW NECTARINES?

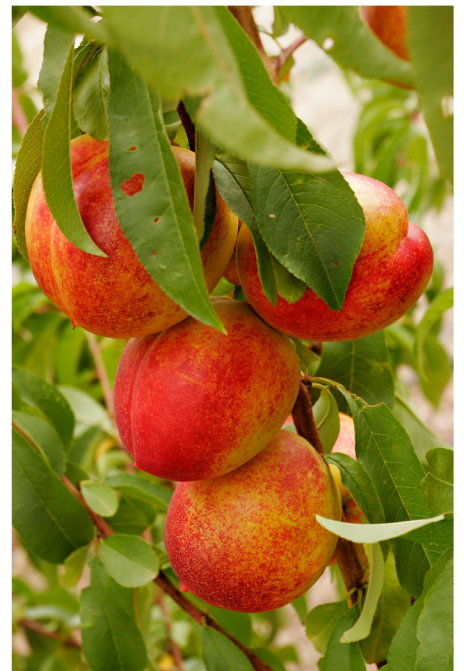
Nectarines are a delicious stone fruit that are popular for their sweet flavor and smooth skin. Similar to their fuzzy-skinned cousin, nectarines have the same genetic build as peaches, except for one gene. Native to Eastern Asia, nectarines are loved not only for their amazing flavor but also for their health benefits. Packed with folate, calcium, phosphorus, and vitamin K, nectarines are a great addition to anyone's diet. As a perk, they can grow in many USDA zones, ranging from 3-11!

## HOW TO PLANT NECTARINES

The best time to plant a nectarine tree is in the fall (when the tree is dormant) or in the spring (before it has leafed out). To plant, dig a hole twice as wide and twice as deep as the pot. Mix a combination of soil and compost that has a ratio of 70% soil to 30% compost. Fill up the hole with enough of your soil mix so that the surface of the root ball will be flush with the ground. Then set the plant in the ground and backfill with your soil mix. Water thoroughly to remove any air pockets

## MAINTENANCE

To care for your nectarine, you will want to water it heavily for two weeks after planting. After the tree is established, you will only need to water when the soil is dry (usually a couple of times a week). Do not over-water. Test the soil with your finger 4 to 5 inches beneath the surface to see if it is dry. Too much water can prevent root growth and drown the tree. Not enough water will cause dehydration. Prune in winter once the tree has gone dormant. Do not fertilize until at least one year after planting.



## COMMON PESTS AND DISEASES

It is important to routinely check on your nectarine trees to identify and treat any developing diseases or infestations. Take a look at this simple guide to help you:

### Scale

Your nectarine tree may have scale if it appears to have grayish-white "scales" covering the trunk and branches forming a sort of armor. These scales are actually insects that feed off of the tree. Heavy infestation can eventually kill the tree. To eradicate, trim off any infested areas, and use a natural insecticide such as neem oil or Spinosad to kill the bugs.

### Brown Rot

A very common fungus that can quickly destroy a nectarine crop is brown rot. Brown rot is a fungus that turns nectarines brown and wrinkly, and creates gummy, oozing cankers. It is easily the most destructive form of fungus to nectarines. To get rid of brown rot, collect and remove all infected fruit. Spray with fungicide during full bloom and two subsequent sprays at 10 to 14 day intervals to prevent infections of flowers and young fruit. Fungicides are also required when fruit ripens. It is important to begin spraying in 7 day intervals (typically, three times until harvest) when fruit turns color from green to yellow and red.

### Borers

Easily identified by the small, round holes that they drill into the bark and limbs of trees, borers are a small bug that can wreak major havoc on a tree. Sap seeps from the holes, increasing chances of infections. To eliminate, you can use Spinosad.

### Mites

Mites are small-brownish bugs that often hide on the undersides of leaves. Mites cause nectarine tree leaves to yellow and shrivel, weakening it. They are often found when trees are experiencing a drought or dry spell. To eliminate them, you can use neem oil.

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