

# Peach

DID YOU KNOW  
BOB WELLS  
NURSERY  
CARRIES OVER 90  
PEACH  
VARIETIES?

## CAN I GROW PEACHES?

Peach trees are popular all over the world. With sweet, juicy flesh and tender skin, they are incredibly delicious. Peaches have a wide range of health benefits, too, containing high levels of vitamin C, beta-carotene, fiber, and potassium. Fortunately, they can be grown in a wide variety of USDA growing zones. Some of our peaches are cold hardy in zones as low as 3 or 4 and others can live in zones as warm as 9 or 10!

## HOW TO PLANT PEACHES

The best time to plant a peach 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 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 peach, you will want to water it every few days for two weeks after planting. After the tree is established, you will only need to water when the soil is dry (usually two or three times a week). 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. Fertilize in the spring with a high-nitrogen fertilizer, and again in the fall with a high-phosphorus fertilizer. Make sure to spray regularly to help prevent fungal issues and insect damage. Read on to learn more detailed instructions for implementing a spray schedule.

## COMMON PESTS AND DISEASES

Peaches are notorious for being especially susceptible to pests and diseases. It is important to regularly check on your peach trees to identify and treat any developing diseases or infestations. Take a look at this simple guide to help you:

### Peach Scab

Peach scab is a fungal disease that causes peaches to develop brown 'freckles'. Typically, fungus will appear on peaches when they have been exposed to too much water (either through rainfall or improper watering). In this situation, you will want to spray the tree with a fungicide. If you want to treat it naturally, we suggest using either neem oil or a copper fungicide. Follow the instructions on the bottle and use approximately every 10 days (and after every rain) to eliminate the fungus.

### Japanese Beetles

Japanese beetles are one of the most detrimental pests to peach trees. Japanese Beetles, easily identified by their metallic-green body and coppery wings, can gnaw through leaves easily, leaving a lace-like skeleton in their wake. Using a broad spectrum insecticide like Spinosad can be effective in eradicating them.

### Brown Rot

Another very common fungus that can quickly destroy a peach crop is brown rot. Brown rot is a fungus that turns peaches brown and wrinkly, and creates gummy, oozing cankers. It is easily the most destructive form of fungus to peaches. 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.

### Shothole Borers

Shothole borers are notorious for plaguing peach trees relentlessly. Boring into the wood of the tree itself, borers can easily be identified if the bark of your peach tree develops small, round holes. Over time, shothole borer infestations can be fatal to a tree, so make sure to treat with neem oil or a broad-range organic insecticide like Spinosad.

**BOB WELLS NURSERY**

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