

Peach

Prunus persica · Rose family

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE Deciduous perennial tree
MATURITY 2–3 years to first fruit



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Regular, deep



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



SPACING
4–5m



DEPTH
graft union
above soil

01 Chill hours matter

Peaches need a set number of winter chill hours to flower and fruit reliably — check the variety's chill requirement against your local winter before planting.



loose stake, first year

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant bare-rooted while dormant, graft union above soil.
SOIL	Well-drained, fertile.
TIMING	Plant in winter while dormant.

04 Problems

- **Peach leaf curl** — distorted, reddened leaves; spray with copper in late winter before buds swell.
- **Fruit fly** — net or bag ripening fruit.
- **Brown rot** — fungal fruit rot in humid weather; improve airflow, remove affected fruit.
- **Poor fruit set** — insufficient chill hours for the variety.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Basil Garlic	Tomato (shared disease risk)	Not applicable — perennial tree; avoid replanting stone fruit in old stone fruit ground.

03 Growing care

- Prune annually in winter — peaches fruit on last year's wood, so renewal pruning matters.
- Thin developing fruit to one per 10–15cm of branch for good size.
- Water deeply through fruit development.
- Feed in early spring as buds swell.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Full colour, gives slightly to gentle pressure, fragrant.
METHOD	Cup the fruit and twist gently.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Room temperature a few days to ripen further, then fridge up to a week.