Peach trees produce tasty fruit having fuzzy skin. Nectarines are very similar to the peach except they have smooth skin. Both have sweet and juicy fruit that is good for fresh eating, canning, preserves and desserts. Their only draw back is they are prone to peach leaf curl. We do offer some great peaches that are resistant to the peach leaf curl, but we still advise applying dormant spray. Grows 15 feet tall and wide, but can be maintained smaller, and range in hardiness from -10°F to -20°F. In the spring peaches and nectarines have showy pink flowers.

EXPOSURE
Full sun to part shade. Early sun is particularly important because it dries dew from trees reducing the incidence of diseases.

PLANTING
Plant 15 feet apart. Peaches need well drained soil. Plant your peach tree with Gardner & Bloome Organic Soil Building Compost, Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer and water in with Bonide Root n Grow. Also, incorporate Lime when planting. Healthy soil is the first step in disease control.

SPRAYING
Spray Bonide Copper Fungicide in December and then again in January. This will help to prevent peach leaf curl. Peach leaf infection happens when buds open. The key to controlling it is to spray after the spores have germinated but before and during the period when the buds open on dormant peaches and nectarines. In the Pacific Northwest, 1 to 3 applications maybe necessary for control. WSU recommends applying the first spray in December and then in 3 week intervals until bloom. Fall clean-up is another way to help fight peach leaf curl. Near total control can be achieved by moving potted trees under cover in the winter.

PRUNING
Peaches require heavy pruning to produce well. Peaches bear on first year wood only, so you need to prune off old wood so your peach tree is always renewing its branches. Prune to keep an open canopy.

FERTILIZING
In March, use Dr. Earth Fruit Tree Fertilizer and again in early August. Apply Lime in early June and again in early August.

FRUITING
Begin to bear fruit at 3 to 4 years. Fruit may need thinning. Hand thin 4 weeks after bloom spacing peaches about 6 inches apart on the limb. There are two types of peaches: Freestone & Clingstone.
• Freestone: Pits are easily removed.
• Clingstone: More difficult to separate from the fruit. These are best for canning.

HARVESTING
Harvest times range from July through August.

MULCHING
Apply 2 to 3 inches of Gardner & Bloome Soil Conditioner around your peach trees annually.

WATERING
Watering is very important for fruit production. When watering, make sure water penetrates 6 to 8 inches below surface.