



## Fact Sheet

# Peaches & Nectarines

Nectarines are really just peaches with a smooth skin. They are ideally suited to cooler temperate areas with dry summers and will form multi branched trees that will bear copious amounts of fruit from a relatively early age.

Trees are generally purchased bare rooted in winter from your nursery person who will prune the trees back to about 30cm above the graft. Plant in a sunny position that is well drained, it is essential that the trees have good surface drainage, if this is a problem it may be necessary to mound the tree. Plant approximately 2-3m apart, in spring they will also produce a very attractive flowering display.

Peaches and nectarines are very heavy feeders and have an especially high nitrogen requirement. Fertilise with a fruit and citrus mix (we recommend Yates Gro Plus Citrus Food), about 1kg per tree while young to 4kgs for older trees. Use 1/2 in autumn and 1/2 in spring.

Fruit is formed on the previous season's wood so when pruning, remove laterals that have already fruited. The aim is to have new laterals shooting from the main framework branches each year. The best fruit is formed close to the main branch.

As for thinning, wait about 6 weeks after flowering for unpollinated fruit to drop, then thin to one fruit per cluster, about 10cm apart.

### **Varieties:**

Choice is between white fleshed varieties which are best for eating but bruise easily or yellow fleshed varieties which are firmer and are ideal for cooking and bottling.

Peaches and nectarines can be espaliered and in recent years dwarf varieties of each have been successfully marketed under the 'Trixxee' label and have proved to be an ideal container specimen that yield good sized fruit. All varieties are self fertile except for J.H. Hale peach which needs a pollinator.

**Recommended varieties:**

**Peaches:**

***Anzac -***

Popular white fleshed fruit. Wonderful eating. Matures January. Freestone.

***Golden Queen -***

Main canning variety. Yellow flesh. Matures late March. Clingstone.



**Peacharine:**

A cross between a Peach and a Nectarine with smooth skin. Flesh is yellow, firm and juicy. Good flavour with the large fruit suitable for eating, drying and stewing. Freestone.

***Redhaven -***

Good flavour. Yellow flesh. Freestone. Matures late January.

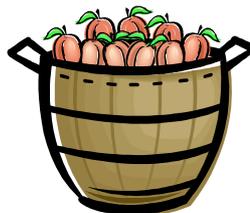
**Pests**

Main pest problem in Tasmania are aphids which can easily be controlled by using a pyrethrum based spray.

**Diseases**

Peaches and nectarines are especially susceptible to brown rot and leaf curl, for the former one would need to conduct a regular spray program during the season starting during blossoming until dead flower drop. Mancozeb has proved to be effective.

For leaf curl a copper spray such as Bordeaux can be applied during the dormant season. Once during mid winter then again at pink bud stage. The timing of the latter spray is critical.



**Nectarines:**

***Fantasia* -**

Good flavour. Yellow fleshed freestone. Worlds most widely planted nectarine. Matures February.

***Goldmine* -**

Main commercial variety grown in Tasmania. White fleshed freestone. Delicious flavour. Matures February.

***Redgold* -**

Yellow flesh. Matures February. Freestone.

**Bordeaux Recipe:**



Spray: Using a non-metallic container combine 90 grams of blue copper sulphate and 6 1/2 litres of water. Mix well.

In another container combine 125 grams of slaked lime with 2 1/2 litres of water. Mix well.

Strain both mixtures (otherwise they may block the spray nozzle) and mix together, stirring well.

Use within an hour of mixing (although it will keep a bit longer by adding a handful of sugar to the bucket).

Spray during winter on peach/nectarine trees to combat leaf curl and on all fruit trees for over wintering scale & bacteria.