



# Healthy Garden Tips

University of California Cooperative Extension - Napa County (707) 253-4221

---

## PEACHES

Peaches, *Prunus persica*, are very popular fruit trees that can be successfully grown in many parts of California. They require adequate summer watering, deep well drained soils, high nitrogen fertility, fruit thinning, and pest control for peach leaf curl and brown rot. Short lived trees (15-20 years). Peaches are self fruitful, that is, do not require a pollinizer tree. Plant 12 x 16 ft. to 18 x 18 ft. apart.

## ROOTSTOCKS

**Lovell Seedling:** A seedling that tolerates wet soils better than any other peach rootstock, but still requires good drainage. Full sized small tree, space 8-14 feet apart.

**Nemaguard Peach:** A seedling, developed for nematode resistance, best adapted to sandy dry sites. Full sized tree.

***Prunus besseyi*:** A semi-dwarfing rootstock that has shown partial incomparability problems, suckers badly, and produces inferior fruit on the scion variety.

**Citation:** A new peach-plum hybrid that is dwarfing to many scion varieties, but not all. It produces a smaller caliper tree. It tolerates wet soils somewhat.

## VARIETIES

There are thousands of varieties that have been developed all over the world, some do very well in warmer areas, others have better fruit quality when grown in cooler climates along the coast of California. Veteran, Loring, and La Feliciana are somewhat more disease resistant.

**Earligrande:** May, excellent flavor, yellow-red blush, semi-freestone

**Springcrest:** June, medium-sized, yellow, semi-freestone

**Babcock:** June, medium-sized, white flesh, freestone

**La Feliciana:** July, medium, red, firm, excellent flavor

**Redhaven:** July, yellow, semi-freestone, needs heavy thinning

**Suncrest:** Large, yellow, mid-season, freestone

Veteran: July, red blush, Elberta type, freestone, dependable

Nectar: July, white flesh, pink skin, excellent flavor

Loring: July, red skin, freestone, yellow flesh, v. large

Fortyniner: Large, yellow, freestone, ripens in August

Fay Elberta: August, Large, yellow, freestone

Rio Oso Gem: August, Very large, yellow, mid-season, freestone

Indian Blood: Sept., Cling, red skin & flesh, tart, prolific

Autumn Gold: Oct., Keeps well, yellow flesh, med large

Halloween: Oct., large, firm, yellow flesh, excellent

Reference: Fruits, Nuts, Berries and Grapes of Sonoma County, Variety & Rootstock Guidebook, Paul Vossen, Horticulture Farm Advisor, Sonoma County, 1986.

March 2006

The University of California prohibits discrimination against or harassment of any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or status as a covered veteran (special disabled veteran, Vietnam-era veteran or any other veteran who served on active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized). University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws. Inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the Affirmative Action/Staff Personnel Services Director, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 300 Lakeside Drive, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612-3550, (510) 987-0096.