Peach and Nectarines

Presented by Ross Penhallegon

Peaches and Nectarines
- Peach: (Drupe and Stone fruits) Prunus persica, self-fruitful but very demanding
  - only 600-900 chilling hours
  - can bloom in December

Peach Rootstocks
- Genetic dwarf: Honey (needs pollinator), Babe, Garden Beauty
- Prunus besseyi
- St. Julian “A”
- Peach seedling

Peach Varieties
- Red haven
- Veteran
- Creswell
- July
- Elberta
- Suncrest
- Leaf Curl resistant:
  - Frost
  - Q1-8
  - Creswell
  - Clyde’s Selection

Spacing
- Plant 8-20 feet apart
- takes three years to bear fruit

Pruning
- Bears on one year old wood
- Prune to open center or multiple leader
- Keep to about 6 feet tall

Fruit Thinning
- Thin 4-6” apart
- Increase fruit size
- Improve fruit quality
- Prevent alternate bearing, assures satisfactory flower bud initiation and return bloom
- Prevents limb breakage
Fertilization
- See Fertilizer Guide (FG 66): Home Fruit, Vegetable, and Ornamental Gardens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tree Age</th>
<th>Apples, Pears, Prunes</th>
<th>Peaches</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Apply N (lb/tree)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>none to 1/8</td>
<td>none to 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>1/4 to 1/3</td>
<td>1/2 to 3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>1/3 to 1/2</td>
<td>3/4 to 1</td>
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</tbody>
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Pollination
- most are self-fruitful
- sterile
  - JH Hale
  - Indian free
  - Indian blood cling

Diseases
- Coryneum blight (shothole)
- bacterial canker or gumosis
- peach leaf curl
  - three dormant copper sprays
  - 12-15, 1-15, 2-15 minimum
- brown rot
  - bloom spray
  - pre-harvest spray

Coryneum blight (shothole)

Gummosis

Peach Leaf Curl
Peach Leaf Curl

Brown Rot

Insects & Other Pests

- peach tree borer
- peach twig borer
- aphids
- western spotted cucumber beetle

Peach Tree Borer

Peach Twig Borer

Green Peach Aphid
Western Spotted Cucumber Beetle

Harvest chart

Peach Variety          Days to Maturity
- Elberta              135
- J.H. Hale            138
- Alamar               140
- Early Elberta        130
- Redhaven             110
- Early Redhaven       100
- Dixiered             96
- Carinal              95
- July Elberta         115
- Halehaven            115

QUESTIONS