



**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
UC Master Gardeners of Napa County

## Healthy Garden Tips

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### PEACHES, ROOTSTOCKS AND VARIETIES

#### PEACHES

Peaches, *Prunus persica*, are very popular fruit trees that can be successfully grown in many part 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 pollenizer 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 ft. 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, and others have been fruit quality when grown in cooler climates along the coast of California.

Veteran, Loring, and La Feliciana are somewhat more disease resistant.

#### VARIETIES

Earligrande: May, excellent flavor, yellow-red blush, semi-freestone	Loring: July, red skin, freestone, yellow flesh v. large
Springcrest: June, medium-sized, yellow, semi-freestone	Fortyniner: Large, yellow, freestone, ripens in August
Babcock: June, medium-sized, white flesh, freestone	Fay Elberta: August, large, yellow, freestone
La Feliciana: July, medium, red, firm, excellent flavor	Rio Oso Gem: August, very large, yellow mid-season, freestone
Redhaven: July, yellow, semi-freestone, needs heavy thinning	Indian Blood: September, cling, red skin and flesh, tart, prolific
Suncrest: Large, yellow, mid-season, freestone	Autumn Gold: October, keeps well, yellow flesh, medium-large
Veteran: July, red blush, Elberta type, freestone, dependable	
Nectar: July, white flesh, pink skin, excellent flavor	
Halloween: October, large, firm, yellow flesh, excellent	

#### Reference:

*Fruits, Nuts, Berries and Grapes of Sonoma County, Variety and Rootstock Guidebook*, Paul Vossen, Farm Advisor, Sonoma County, 1986.