

Nectarine

Prunus persica var. *nucipersica* · Rose family

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE Deciduous perennial tree
MATURITY 2–3 years to first fruit



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Regular, deep



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



SPACING
4–5m



DEPTH
graft union
above soil

01 Chill hours matter

Essentially a smooth-skinned peach with the same chill hour requirements — check the variety's winter chill needs against your local climate before planting.

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant bare-rooted while dormant.
SOIL	Well-drained, fertile.
TIMING	Plant in winter while dormant.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

04 Problems

- **Peach leaf curl** — spray with copper in late winter before buds swell.
- **Fruit fly** — net or bag ripening fruit.
- **Brown rot** — improve airflow, remove affected fruit promptly.
- **Poor fruit set** — insufficient chill hours for the variety.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY

Basil

Garlic

AVOID NEARBY

Tomato (shared disease risk)

ROTATION NOTE

Avoid replanting stone fruit in old stone fruit ground.



loose stake, first year

03 Growing care

- Prune annually in winter — fruits on last year's wood.
- Thin developing fruit for good size.
- Water deeply through fruit development.
- Feed in early spring as buds swell.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Full colour, gives slightly to gentle pressure, fragrant.
METHOD	Cup the fruit and twist gently.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Room temperature to ripen further, then fridge up to a week.
PRESERVING	See Canning & Bottling (bottling a fruit glut) or Dehydrating (dried fruit) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.