

Peach

Prunus persica · 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

Peaches need a set number of winter chill hours to flower and fruit reliably — check the variety's chill requirement against your local winter before planting.

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant bare-rooted while dormant, graft union above soil.
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** — distorted, reddened leaves; spray with copper in late winter before buds swell.
- **Fruit fly** — net or bag ripening fruit.
- **Brown rot** — fungal fruit rot in humid weather; improve airflow, remove affected fruit.
- **Poor fruit set** — insufficient chill hours for the variety.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY

Basil

Garlic

AVOID NEARBY

Tomato (shared disease risk)

ROTATION NOTE

Not applicable — perennial tree; avoid replanting stone fruit in old stone fruit ground.



loose stake, first year

03 Growing care

- Prune annually in winter — peaches fruit on last year's wood, so renewal pruning matters.
- Thin developing fruit to one per 10–15cm of branch 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 a few days 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.
RECIPES	Try our Simple Stewed Stone Fruit — a way to use a glut.