

# Fantasia Nectarine



Nectarines have vitamins A and C, fiber and potassium though they are not as good of a source as apples or oranges.



## *Prunus persica var. nucipersica 'Fantasia'*

- **Use:** One of the most adaptable Nectarines for home gardens. Bright pink flowers cover the branches in spring, providing showy color and attracting butterflies and birds. Your tree will start to give you fruit when it's about 2 to 3 years old, though it will take a few years to build up to a more complete harvest. Most trees will give 30 to 40 lbs of nectarines once mature. Nectarines are ripe to pick when they come off the branches with just a gentle twist. If you have to tug or pull, then you shouldn't be picking yet. They will also lose all their green color. Handle them gentle as they can bruise very easily.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Full to part sun. Soil should be well-drained. Acidic soil is preferred, though it can tolerate a wide variety of soils. Water weekly during a drought.
- **Growth:** Growing to be 12-15 feet tall and 10-15 foot in width.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 5a-9b; Tree
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Pruning is an important part of your tree maintenance, though your trees will still produce a good crop of fruit even if you aren't an expert at it. You should time your pruning chores to the early spring while the tree is still winter dormant.
- **Flower/Fruit:** It has very large, freestone fruit with red skin and bright yellow, firm flesh. Fruit ripens mid to late July. An ideal tree for mild winter areas. Recommended chill: 500 - 600 hours. Good for eating fresh or using in your recipes. They are low in calories and provide antioxidants, vitamins and minerals. Self pollinating, however, planting a second compatible nectarine or peach tree can increase and extend the overall fruit harvest through cross-pollination.

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