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Peach and Nectarine Tree Care Calendar



Typical months in zones 5, 7 and 9: zones 5 and 7 worked out from frost dates at a representative location; zone 9 from warm-region extension month rules. Shift them by your local frost dates and by what your trees are doing.

The jobs particular to peach and nectarine trees; the zone calendars add the care every fruit tree needs. Zone 9 comes from warm-region guides, which list fewer and different jobs for these trees than the guides behind the cooler zones, so many rows run in one or the other. A dash means no source on this sheet gives the job for that zone.

	Job	Zone 5	Zone 7	Zone 9
☐	Prune stone fruit in late winter, near bloom	Mar–May	Feb–Apr	Dec–Feb
☐	Cut back new stone fruit trees at planting New trees	Apr	Feb–Mar	Dec–Feb
☐	Choose scaffold branches during the first summer Young trees	May–Jul	Apr–Jun	—
☐	Watch for plum curculio after petal fall Bearing trees	May–Jun	Apr–May	—
☐	Thin peaches to 6 to 8 inches apart Bearing trees	Jun	May	Florida: Feb–Mar
☐	Cut root suckers to the ground	Jun–Jul	—	—
☐	Pick peaches when flesh yields to thumb pressure Bearing trees	Jul–Sep	North Carolina: May–Aug	—
☐	Remove mummies, fallen fruit and dead twigs Bearing trees	Oct–Nov	Nov–Dec	—
☐	Peach leaf curl treatment window after leaf fall †	Nov–Dec	Dec	Nov–Dec
☐	Cut vigorous shoots from the peach tree's center Bearing trees	—	Jul	May–Aug
☐	Pick peaches and nectarines firm ripe Bearing trees	—	—	Florida and Arizona: Mar–May

† Timing only. Follow your state or provincial extension's home-orchard spray guide and the product label.

Notes

Sources: Virginia Cooperative Extension; Clemson Cooperative Extension; University of Minnesota and 11 more (full list at the web address on the left)

Data as of 15 Nov 2026