Peaches

**Application of** four holistic sprays (liquid fish, pure neem oil, effective microbes) every few weeks once leaves start emerging and ending once fruits have formed (**Late February to Mid-May**)

**Complete the big yearly pruning.** Peaches only produce on new growth, so peaches can be pruned heavily, going up to 50% of the branches (**Late February to Mid-March**)

**Remove any tree wraps placed in winter** (**Early April**)

**For the first three years, remove all fruitlets to prevent fruit production** (**Late April to Early May**)

**After three years, thin the fruits** so that individual fruit are spaced about 8 inches apart (**Prior to fourth holistic spray**)

**Harvest when fruits are ready!** Peaches are ripe when the fruit has a slight give and smells sweet (**May through August**)

**While harvesting**, remove any mummified fruits and dispose of outside of the orchard to prevent disease spread (**May through August**)

**Cut back or harvest allium companion plant** (**September through November**)

**Remove or shred all fallen leaves** to prevent diseases from spreading (**Mid-October to November**)

**Fifth holistic spray once all leaves have been disposed** (**November**)

**Install tree wraps** to protect trees from rabbits and voles (**Late November**)

**Apply a new layer of mulch** to the base of the tree (**November**)

**During the first full growing season, water 5 gallons per plant per week, with the exception of weeks with substantial rain.** After the first year, trees only need to be watered during droughts

**Weed the mulch ring**

**Plant any desired companion plants** to benefit the orchard ecosystem (**Spring or Fall**)

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**Spring Care**

- **Application of** four holistic sprays (liquid fish, pure neem oil, effective microbes) every few weeks once leaves start emerging and ending once fruits have formed (**Late February to Mid-May**)
- **Complete the big yearly pruning.** Peaches only produce on new growth, so peaches can be pruned heavily, going up to 50% of the branches (**Late February to Mid-March**)
- **Remove any tree wraps placed in winter** (**Early April**)
- **For the first three years, remove all fruitlets to prevent fruit production** (**Late April to Early May**)
- **After three years, thin the fruits** so that individual fruit are spaced about 8 inches apart (**Prior to fourth holistic spray**)

**Summer Care**

- **Harvest when fruits are ready!** Peaches are ripe when the fruit has a slight give and smells sweet (**May through August**)
- **While harvesting**, remove any mummified fruits and dispose of outside of the orchard to prevent disease spread (**May through August**)

**Fall Care**

- **Cut back or harvest allium companion plant** (**September through November**)
- **Remove or shred all fallen leaves** to prevent diseases from spreading (**Mid-October to November**)
- **Fifth holistic spray once all leaves have been disposed** (**November**)
- **Install tree wraps** to protect trees from rabbits and voles (**Late November**)
- **Apply a new layer of mulch** to the base of the tree (**November**)

**Ongoing Care**

- **During the first full growing season, water 5 gallons per plant per week, with the exception of weeks with substantial rain.** After the first year, trees only need to be watered during droughts
- **Weed the mulch ring**
- **Plant any desired companion plants** to benefit the orchard ecosystem (**Spring or Fall**)

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**Common Pests and Diseases**

*Other diseases or pests may be present, but these are the ones most commonly found in St. Louis.*

**Codling Moth and Oriental Fruit Moth:** Small gray/brown moths that eat the fruit. OFM also eat branch tips  
*Treatment:* Bt inclusion in 4th holistic sprays, Bt sprays, sunflower companion planting

**Peach Tree Borer:** Moth larvae that bore into the trunk and branches, weakening or killing the tree  
*Treatment:* Bt inclusion in 4th holistic spray, wrapping trunk with window screening, kaolin clay paste painted on the trunk, alliums planted around trunk

**Brown Rot:** Fungal disease, creates soft brown spots on fruit  
*Treatment:* Preventatives: sulfur spray, whey spray, Monterey complete disease control

**Peach Leaf Curl:** Fungal infection that infects the leaves, causing them to curl up and fall off  
*Treatment:* Copper application when tree is dormant

**Bacterial Spot:** Infection that causes dark, angular spots on the leaves, sunken spots on fruit  
*Treatment:* Copper application

**Perennial Canker:** Fungal infection that infects winter injury to bark, leads to branch death  
*Treatment:* Prune right before bloom, remove infected material, apply mustard oil or mustard green poultice to cankers

**Peach Scab:** Black velvety spots on fruits, shoots, and leaves  
*Treatment:* Sulfur spray, whey spray

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**Gateway Greening Classes and Resources**

**Holistic Sprays**- Available to Giving Grove projects  
*Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), kaolin clay, sulfur, whey, Monterey complete disease control, liquid copper, mustard green seed packets - Available for purchase from our Gateway Greening store

**Orchard Classes**- Summer Pruning, Dormant Fruit Tree Pruning, Pest and Disease Management, and Harvest. Schedules available on our website and Facebook page

**Companion plant recommendations**- handout available on website

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