



Monji Plant Profile

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Fantasia & Independence Nectarine *Prunus persica nucipersica*

09-23



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zones 3, 7-9, 14-16, 18-22	Full sun	Require good drainage and regular fertilizing	Regular watering during fruit development	Showy pink blossoms	Rapid growth to 25 feet

Sweeter than its first cousin, the peach, and darker-fleshed (hence richer in beta-carotene), nectarines are a sweet, juicy summer treat that is virtually fat free and a good supply of vitamin C and fiber. Many people mistakenly think nectarines are simply peaches without fuzz—an understandable association, given that the two fruits are nearly alike in size, texture, and color. Nectarines, however, are generally sweeter than peaches. Botanically, the nectarine is classified as a subspecies of the peach, but it is more accurate to describe each fruit as a genetic variant of the other.

Despite their similarity, nectarines (their name is probably derived from nektar, the Greek word for "drink of the gods") have been distinguished from peaches and other pitted fruits for hundreds of years. Today's modern cross-breeding techniques, in which nectarine varieties are crossed with one another as well as with peaches, have yielded larger, peachlike nectarines with gold and crimson skin and yellow flesh.