

- **Is it possible to grow peaches in this area?**

Peaches can be grown over most of BC, even north of Prince George. Finding the right variety for the area is key. In the north, a hardy variety would be necessary.

Peach tree growing is much easier with compact trees using dwarf root stock. A smaller sized tree can be more easily pruned. In our wet winters, the trees should be grown on a south wall with an overhang to protect from winter wet. Prune the branches so they fan out horizontally against the wall. Make sure to stake the tree and leave the stake for the lifetime of the tree. Aim for slow, continuous growth and regular water during the dry season. Peach trees are self pollinating. A common disease that can attack peach trees is peach leaf curl, a fungus. The trees should be sprayed with lime sulphur spray after most of the leaves (90%) have fallen then again in very early spring before the buds begin to swell to reduce the level of infected peach curl fungus spores. Grow the tree with good drainage to the roots, avoiding poor and compacted soil and drought conditions with correct watering. A U.B.C. gardening forum lists Empress and Frost varieties as successful in south coastal B.C. For advice on growing, contact Fruit Trees and More, nursery and demonstration garden in North Saanich. The B.C. Fruit Testers Association is another local resource with publications and a library.

Sources:

CBC news Brian Minter [March 18](#), 2016

Fruit Trees and More 724 Wain Rd. N. Saanich, Bob and Vera Duncan

<https://www.fruittreesandmore.com/>

<https://forums.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/threads/dwarf-peach-tree.150/B.C.> (UBS Botanical Garden)

bcfta.ca (Fruit Testers Association)