



# Growing Fruit Trees: Peaches

## *Proper Care of Trees for Noxious Pest Avoidance*

### Important Notice:

Before planting fruit trees, it is the residential growers responsibility to familiarize oneself with the RDOS [Bylaw](#). It is necessary that proper care of fruit trees is taken to prevent & control pest infestations.

### Before Planting your Tree

Peach trees can only produce healthy fruit if home growers pay careful attention to pruning, sanitation, pest management, & harvest practices. If you are planting the tree for shade or ornamental purposes, consider planting an ornamental tree that will be less bothersome, costly to care for & manage.

### General Peach Tree Care

**Sanitation:** Diligent sanitation practice will reduce the risk of pest infestation. Remove dead & decaying fruit & leaves from the tree & ground. Maintain a good weeding & visual inspection routine to avoid pests.

**Pruning:** Avoid pruning in fall or winter to avoid winter injury, which makes the tree more susceptible to pests. In early spring (before bud break & at least two weeks after last frost), remove all dead & diseased branches first. Prune the upper part of the tree more than the lower to maximize sunlight & airflow.

**Thinning:** Peaches often cause overloading due to the weight of the fruit. Thinning in June will prevent this. Leave about 6 inches between fruits.

**Harvesting:** Remove ALL fruit at harvest (July-Aug) & make sure all diseased & insect-infested fruit is destroyed properly. Fruit can be ripened on or off the tree depending on preference. If choosing to ripen on the tree, check crop frequently & pick often to avoid fruit decomposition & pests.



### Pest Avoidance & Management

**Important:** Keeping trees healthy by prioritizing sanitation practice will help reduce pest & disease problems. Avoid chemical intervention (pesticides) & use preventative strategies first.

**Netting Tree & Bagging Fruit:** Net the entire tree or place horticultural bags around the fruit when small & leave on for the majority of the growth process. This reduces the risk of pests, disease, & damage from birds.

**Pesticides (last resort):** If preventative measures are no longer adequate, consult professionals before use. Always begin with the least toxic product available first.

**Pesticide Stewardship:** Do not apply in daytime when bees are foraging, when wind speeds are high, or when rain is forecast.

### [Tree Fruit Pest Control | RDOS](#)

NOTE: B.C. is bear country, including densely populated areas. Fruit trees are attractants for bears and must be maintained properly to keep wildlife wild and communities safe. [www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com)

# MOST COMMON PEACH TREE PESTS

## Peach Twig Borer

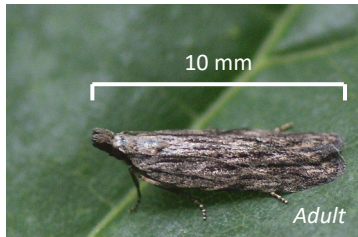
(25mm = 1 inch)

## Green Peach Aphid



Larva

CropHealth Advising & Research



Adult

Iliia Ustyantsev



Wilting Shoot



Fruit Damage

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**Identification:** Check for wilting on developing shoots which is an indication of borer presence. Larvae may feed on ripening fruit & holes will be seen at the stem end.

**Management:** Frequently check for wilted shoots & destroy any larvae present. Infested fruit must be placed in a sealed bag to cook in the sun, or placed in a freezer for a few days to kill the pest before disposal.



Nymphs



Eggs



Nymphs & Adults



Colony

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**Identification:** Found on leaves, twigs, or roots in colonies. Curling leaves & slow growth of shoots & fruitlets may be seen. Young fruit may be deformed. These aphids also infest many types of vegetable.

**Management:** Check leaves before bud burst. Avoid excessive nitrogen application. Apply sticky banding around trunk to keep away the ants who protect the aphids from natural predators & farm them.

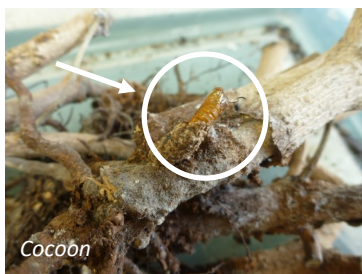
## Peach Tree Borer



Larva



Adult



Cocoon



Damage at Base

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**Identification:** Gumming can be seen at the base of tree, & young trees may girdle or die. Older trees may weaken & become more susceptible to other pests. Larvae are cream-colored, & adults are clear-wing moths.

**Management:** Remove borers by cutting into their tunnels with a sharp knife or by probing with a wire. When borers are removed, apply a metal trunk collar at base of tree.

## Additional Info

### Other Pests to Look out for

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, European Earwig, Spotted Wing Drosophila, European Red Mite, Lygus Bugs, Obliquebanded/ Threelined Leafroller, Green Fruitworm etc.

### More Detailed Pest Descriptions Found Here

[Home & Garden Pest Management Guide for BC Pests of Fruit Trees.](#)

### Okanagan Invasive Species Online

This is a useful resource for information on all invasive insect pests of concern in the region. This can be found at: [www.OISO.ca](http://www.OISO.ca)

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OKANAGAN INVASIVE SPECIES ONLINE

### Plant Me Instead Factsheet

For ornamental & native tree or shrub alternatives for fruit bearing trees & shrubs, visit [Tree Fruit Pest Control | RDOS](#)

### Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Note

This is a very destructive pest that affects a wide range of fruits & vegetables. Send images or samples of the suspected stink bug to the BC Ministry of Agriculture or report [online](#).

*Contact your local nursery/ greenhouse if you are unsure about what management strategy should be practiced & how to properly care for your fruit tree.*

Noxious Pest Program Video Media:

[Regional District Okanagan Similkameen \(RDOS\) - YouTube](#)