

Botanical Name: Prunus persica 'Early Elberta'

Common Name: Peach

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an upright, single-trunk plant with vigorously ascending or spreading branches forming a full rounded canopy; on older branches the bark is grayish-brown, with the young stems smooth, green

Height 20-25'(40') Spread equal Growth Rate very rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun preferable; tolerates partial

Soil a deep rich loam is best; requires well-draining soils

Hardiness hardy (zones 2-11, 14-18): thrives in hot summer locations

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, lanceolate-oblong 4-9" long, finely serrate or crenate; smooth, shiny green

Flowers bisexual, pink, solitary, sessile; 1/2-1" wide; appearing before the leaves, on second-year wood only; Feb.-April

Fruit a drupe: fleshy, round-oval, 2-4" diam; pubescent, yellow

Propagation: seed, followed by budding or grafting

Usage: primarily used as a fruit tree; rapid growth and rather poor branching structure makes the peach less desirable as an ornamental than either the apricot or plum; dwarf varieties are suitable for containers

Landscape Care:

Watering regular, deep watering is recommended especially during the hot summer months; can tolerate some drought

Fertilizing balanced, in spring and late summer; add iron for chlorosis

Pruning develop 3 wide-spreading scaffold branches on young trees

Pests/Diseases peach leaf curl, shot-hole fungus, borer, fireblight, scale

Special Conditions

Origin: China Family: Rosaceae