**A NATURAL FARM & EDUCATIONAL CENTER**

**WINTER 2015-2016**

**GROW PEACHES, NECTARINES & PLUMS ORGANICALLY IN YOUR BACKYARD**

**COMMON PRACTICES FOR ALL TREES**

* LIGHT REQUIREMENT : Full sun for maximum fruit production
* FERTILIZATION : Apply organic fertilizer (We use composted turkey manure & worm castings) 3 times a year by spreading evenly below the tree canopy

First application: January/February when trees are still dormant at rate of 1 lb per tree for young trees and 3 lb for trees 3 years and older

Second application: June at ½ lb per tree for young trees and 1.5 lb for trees 3 years and older

Third application: September at same rate as 2nd application

* SPACING : 15’ x 15’ (or 8’ x 15’ for High density plantings)

**PEACHES, NECTARINES & PLUMS**

VARIETIES

1. Peaches. Our varieties are all UF varieties grafted on either Nemaguard or Flordaguard rootstocks and low chill requirements

Tropic Beauty has fruits slightly smaller than typical Georgia peaches and yellow flesh

FlordaPrince has small fruits and yellow flesh

Tropic Snow has small fruits with white flesh and very sweet

1. Plums. ‘Red Scarlet’ (medium size fruits for North & Central Fla including Tampa area) & ‘Yellow’ (medium size yellow fruits for North & Central Fla / Lake, Orange cties).
2. Nectarines. ‘SunRaycer’ (UF variety with medium size & very sweet red fruit)

PRUNING

Main pruning is done in the winter during dormancy. The initial goal of the pruning for young trees is to create 4 scaffold branches at 45 degrees.

“V” shape with open center to allow light penetration through canopy and stimulate production of new fruiting wood. Improve fruit quality and makes harvesting and fruit thinning easier.

Summer pruning has for goal to remove undesirable branches and vigorous branches that may divert growth away from scaffold branches. Leave some small branches to reduce sun burn on trunk.

Difference between peach/nectarines & plums regarding tree flowering.

Peach & Nectarine trees bear fruits on 1 year-old wood and plums bear fruits primarily on lateral branches or spurs that are 2 years old or older. I will explain the consequence of this information on tree pruning.

INSECTS & DISEASES

General note regarding orchard sanitation practices. It is highly recommended to discard any dead or diseased branches or fruits that may be on the trees or on the ground. It is also very critical to maintain the center of the canopies open in order to allow plenty of air circulation within the trees. This air flow will enable the tree branches, leaves and fruits to dry out quicker during our wet summers.

White peach scale. Spray organic neem oil in the winter on trunks & branches when trees are dormant to kill adult scales. Spray neem oil in May to kill young larvae hatch. Spray neem oil again in September when other young larvae hatch.

Disease brown rot on fruits. Use a combination of organic sulfur and a new organic fungicide/insect repellent called “Surround”. Spray once after the flower petals have fallen and 2 weeks later.

Visit us at:

[www.anaturalfarm.com](http://www.anaturalfarm.com)

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