Nectarine, Mericrest (Semi Dwarf)

Prunus persica var. nucipersica 'Mericrest'



Nectarine, Mericrest (Semi Dwarf) fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Description:

A compact tree producing medium to large freestone nectarines; highly ornamental, with pale pink flowers in spring and a low, spreading habit; susceptible to late spring freezes, needs full sun and well-drained soil



Nectarine, Mericrest (Semi Dwarf) flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Edible Qualities

Nectarine, Mericrest (Semi Dwarf) is a small tree that is typically grown for its edible qualities. It produces yellow round fruit (technically 'drupes') with a red blush and yellow flesh which are usually ready for picking from mid to late summer. Note that the fruits have hard inedible pits inside which must be removed before eating or processing. The fruits have a sweet taste and a juicy texture.

The fruit are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Preserves
- Canning

Features & Attributes

Nectarine, Mericrest (Semi Dwarf) is draped in stunning clusters of fragrant shell pink flowers along the branches in early spring, which emerge from distinctive rose flower buds before the leaves. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The narrow leaves turn yellow in fall. The fruits are showy yellow drupes with a red blush, which are carried in abundance in mid summer. The fruit can be messy if allowed to drop on the lawn or walkways, and may require occasional clean-up.

This is a deciduous tree with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition. This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Messy

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Nectarine, Mericrest (Semi Dwarf) is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping

Planting & Growing

Nectarine, Mericrest (Semi Dwarf) will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more. This is a self-pollinating variety, so it doesn't require a second plant nearby to set fruit.

This tree is typically grown in a designated area of the yard because of its mature size and spread. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Special Attributes

Growing fruit trees is a very tasty and rewarding food source, it does take time, energy and devotion to maintain so if you are up for the task. Nectarine & Peach trees are a fruit that takes less care here in the Columbia Basin see our website, go to products then fruit trees click on Peaches & Nectarines for our care guide