



DIFFERENT AND THE SAME

Have you noticed that your nectarine is a similar colour, size, and shape to a peach, and it also has a hard seed, or pit? Just like peaches, nectarines can have white or peach-coloured flesh, and they grow on trees that look identical to peach trees. Nectarines and peaches are so similar that scientists call them twins. There's one difference, though: peaches have a gene that makes their skin fuzzy. Nectarines don't, so they're fuzz-less!

EXPERTS IN THE ORCHARD AND BEHIND THE SCENES

To deliver top-quality, farm-fresh nectarines, growers rely on the help of many experts:



IN THE BACKGROUND

Plant Breeder

Grows seedlings, looking for new varieties that are the right taste, size, and colour and that grow and store well.

Nursery Worker

Grows seedlings. Raising strong seedlings is key to producing a lot of top-quality fruit years later.

Crop Input Salesperson

Sells fertilizer and chemicals for managing weeds, diseases, and pests.



ON THE FARM

Horticulturalist

Provides expert advice on growing; from feeding trees to managing pests, pruning branches, thinning, and harvesting.

Mechanic

Keeps the tractor, mower, sprayer, and other machines in good working order.

Farm Labourer

Helps with pruning, picking, and other jobs on the farm.



AFTER HARVEST

Packing House Worker

Sorts and packs nectarines so they can be shipped across BC and around the world.

Fruit Marketer

Sells bulk orders to stores and other retailers.

Trucker

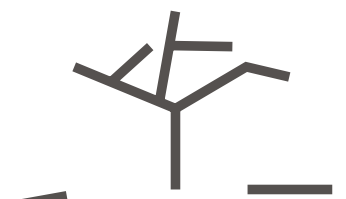
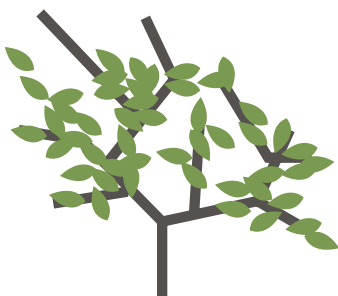
Transports the sorted and packed nectarines to stores and markets.

Grocery Store Clerk / Fruit Salesperson

Sells the nectarines to you!

A YEAR IN A NECTARINE ORCHARD

A nectarine grower works in all four seasons. Much of the work is hard, physical labour: cutting branches in winter, thinning blossoms and fruits in spring, harvesting in summer, and cleaning orchards in fall. Running a farm also requires a lot of mental work, like deciding how best to care for the trees, how many workers to hire, and how and where to sell the fruit.



COMPREHENSION ACTIVITY: INCREASE YOUR FAMILY'S ORCHARD KNOWLEDGE

Curriculum Connection: Language Arts - grades 4 to 7: Language and text can be a source of creativity and joy. Science - grades 4 to 7: All living things sense and respond to their environment. Mathematics - grades 4 to 7: Patterns can be identified and represented using tools and tables. First Peoples Principles of Learning: Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational.

Have students create a poster depicting a year in a nectarine orchard, by season or by month. Alternatively, students can choose to focus on one season or one month, or they can use another creative way to capture an orchard at a particular time. (See the sample 12-month poster provided below the word lists.) Ask students to use the information on the front side of this sheet and the words provided below to fill in the poster and show their families what they have learned about a nectarine orchard. Students can also sketch what a nectarine tree looks like in every season (or in the season/month they have chosen to depict). Hint: some people work in orchards year-round, so they may show up multiple times on a single poster, but their jobs will be different at different times of year.

Seasons

Summer
Fall
Winter
Spring

Months

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| January | July |
| February | August |
| March | September |
| April | October |
| May | November |
| June | December |

People involved in producing & delivering nectarines

Growers and their families
Orchard workers
Horticulturalists
Nursery workers
Plant breeders
Fruit stand owners and operators
Truckers
Packing house workers
Grocery store clerks

Activities in the orchard

Picking
Planting
Thinning
Pruning
Cleaning
Harvesting
Irrigating

Replicate this sample poster on the whiteboard for the class to copy, or have students create their own version.