

# SOUTHEASTERN PEACH GROWERS' HANDBOOK

## 2 PEACH GROWTH STAGES

Images by

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**DORMANT.** Buds are tight with no visible swelling. Two flower buds, the plumper buds on the outside, flank the single, more diminutive leaf bud.



**GREEN CALYX, GREEN BUD, OR BUD BURST.** The top of the buds have opened. The top and sides may be noticeably green. Initiation and rate of growth in the flower buds and leaf buds may vary.



**BUD SWELL.** Buds are swollen, bb-sized pink tissue may be seen where the swelling bud begins to open.



**1/4 INCH GREEN.** 1/4 inch of leaf tissue showing from the leaf buds.



**PINK.** Flower buds have expanded and elongated, in preparation for open blooms.



**PETAL FALL TO IN THE SHUCK.** Petals readily fall from the tree. When the petals have fallen, the fruit is in the shuck.



**FIRST BLOOM.** When the first flowers open.



**SHUCK SPLIT.** Growth of the fruit has split the flower shuck.



**FULL BLOOM.** Most of the flowers on the tree are open.



**SHUCK OFF.** Growth of the fruit has pushed the flower shuck off the blossom end of the fruit.



**FRUIT SIZE CLASSIFICATION**

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1/8 inch (ca 3 mm)

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1/4 inch (ca 6 mm)

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1/2 inch (ca 13 mm)

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3/4 inch (ca 19 mm)

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1 inch (ca 25 mm)

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1 1/4 inch (ca 32 mm)

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1 1/2 inch (ca 38 mm)

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1 3/4 inch (ca 44 mm)

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2 inch (ca 51 mm)

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2 1/4 inch (ca 57 mm)

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2 1/2 inch (ca 64 mm)

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2 3/4 inch (ca 70 mm)

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3 inch (ca 76 mm)

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**Pit Hardening.** An internal developmental change, with the pit hardening and taking on a stony character. This is tested by trying to cut the fruit in half.

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**Color Breaks.** As fruit matures, its color changes or breaks from greenish to yellow to red.



