

Grow healthy trees & more fruit with these simple steps!

Choosing a Location

It takes sun to make sugar—the more sun the better. Plant fruit trees so they get at least 6–8 hours of sun, preferably in the afternoon. A south and west exposure is best. Since the Pacific Northwest has little rain between June and October, when fruit matures, plant the tree where you can water it. Consistent water produces larger fruit.

Planting

It's best to plant fruit trees in fall or early spring. Dig a large planting hole, break up the root ball, and water deeply after planting. Mulch the tree, but don't add fertilizer. Find specific planting instructions at the City Fruit website: www.cityfruit.org/grow/planting.htm

Watering & Mulching

After rains stop in spring, water deeply once a week. For dwarfing rootstock, do this for the tree's lifetime. Mulch the tree to hold moisture in the ground, moderate soil temperature and reduce competition from grass and weeds. Keep grass 6 feet away from the tree for the first few years.

Pollination

Some fruit trees are self-pollinating (e.g. Lapin cherries), while others need to be pollinated by other varieties (e.g., apples). For information about weather, bees and pollination, see City Fruit: www.cityfruit.org/grow/pollination.htm

Pruning

Fruit trees are resilient—if you prune away too much, it will grow back! There are different reasons for pruning—to train young trees, to produce more fruit, to renovate old trees. And different types of trees are pruned in different ways. See *Resources* section below and the City Fruit website for information on pruning: www.cityfruit.org/grow/pruning.htm

Preventing pests

Disease resistant apples need little attention for scab and fungus. The most serious pests—codling moth and apple maggot—can be reduced or eliminated by using non-chemical precautions. For information on managing pests see the *Resources* section below and visit the City Fruit website: www.cityfruit.org



photo Will Morgan



photo Adriana Herbut

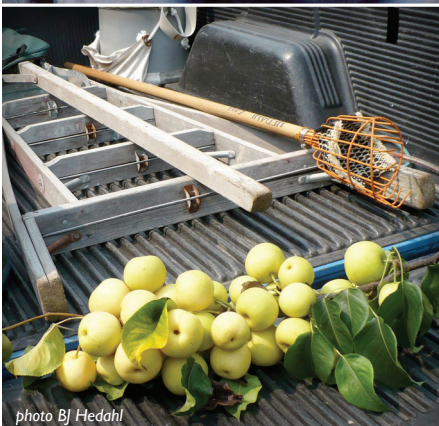


photo Bj Hedahl

Thinning can increase fruit size and quality

"Leaving too many fruits on a tree means fewer cells for each fruit, which translates into smaller fruit that is often of poor quality."

— from the *Fruit Handbook for Western Washington*

Resources

City Fruit

www.cityfruit.org & info@cityfruit.org

Fruit Handbook for Western Washington
<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb0937/eb0937.pdf>

Seattle Tree Fruit Society

www.seattletreefruitsociety.com

Seattle Tilth Garden Hotline

(206) 633-0224 or help@gardenhotline.org

Washington State University Ext. Master Gardeners

(206) 296-3440

Friends of Piper Orchard

www.piperorchard.org

Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation

www.wwfrrf.org

Portland Home Orchard Society

www.homeorchardsociety.org

N. Carolina Coop. Ext. on Training & Pruning Fruit Trees

www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/ag29.html

Western Cascade Fruit Society

www.wcfs.org