



Fruit Tree Growing Information

Planting

Choose a site that gets as much sun as possible. Dig a hole that's 2-3 times the size of the pot the tree is in. Plant top of the root ball in line or slightly above ground level. Before you backfill in the hole, mix some compost into the soil that was removed. Doing this adds vital nutrients to the root zone and improves drainage. Adding a couple inches of compost to the top of the soil at time of planting and then every subsequent year is a good idea to keep the soil well fed and happy. The tree should be moist before planting. If dry, water deeply and then wait a couple hours before planting. Mound soil around the tree to create a tree well if possible. Water deeply.

Watering

Watering your new plants is key to the success of your landscape. It is important to keep new plantings MOIST but not WET. Water thoroughly and deeply less often, instead of simply sprinkling the surface more often. This will encourage all of your new plants' roots to search for water more deeply, therefore needing less supplemental water in the long run.

Pruning

Fruit trees should be pruned while dormant in late January, February or early March. When pruning, keep the following in mind:

- Remove dead, diseased and damaged branches.
- Remove branches that are pointing upwards or towards the center of the tree.
- Remove any branches that are crossing or rubbing against others
- "Heading" cuts should be performed to shorten the branches from last year's growth. This will ensure heavy fruit does not weigh down and break branches.
- You can "top" the tree to control the height to whatever suits your situation best

Fertilizing

Right before bud break is the perfect time to fertilize fruit trees. If you miss the opportunity, you can still fertilize any time through June. Do not fertilize in late summer or fall as new growth stimulated by the fertilizer can be damaged by frost. A fertilizer such as Down to Earth Fruit Tree is recommended.

Additional Questions?

The University of Idaho Extension office is a great resource for horticultural and agricultural questions. Their website offers many tips and tricks and they even offer seasonal classes.

Phone: (208) 287-5900

Email: ada@uidaho.edu

Web Address: <http://extension.uidaho.edu/ada/>

Five Mile Farm & Greenhouses

208-362-3242

www.5milefarm.com