

Successful Tree Fruit Gardening

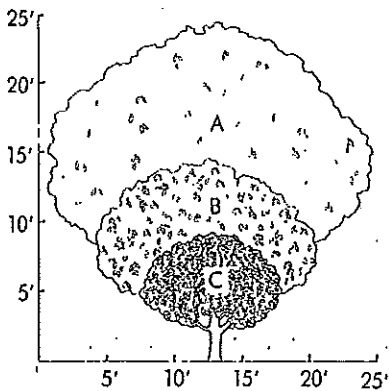
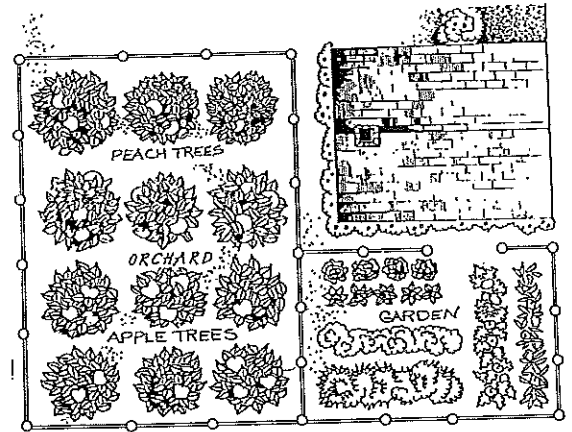
Apples, Pears, Peaches, Cherries, Plums

1. Understand environmental requirements

- sun
- deep, well-drained soil
- adequate water
- space for mature canopy

2. Planning the Garden: Draw the area out on paper

- full sun or mostly sun
- space available
- varieties desired
- realistic time for maintenance: pruning, spraying, harvesting



Relative tree sizes.

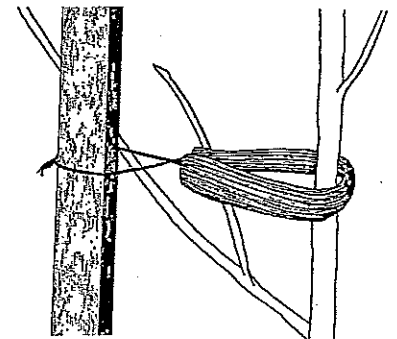
(A) Standard. (B) Semi-dwarf. (C) Dwarf.

3. Choosing varieties for Western Washington

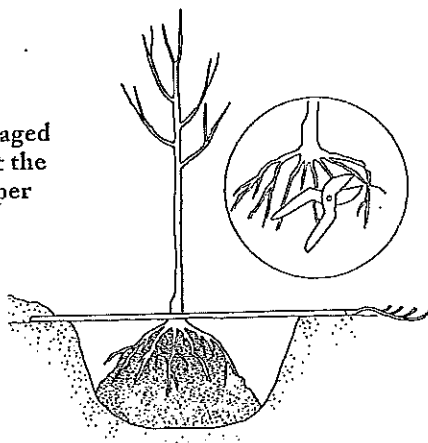
- Consider the mature size of the tree:
mini-dwarf for containers, espaliered & columnar trees available
- Pollination requirements- Combination grafted trees are 4 in 1
- Disease resistance

4. Planting Trees

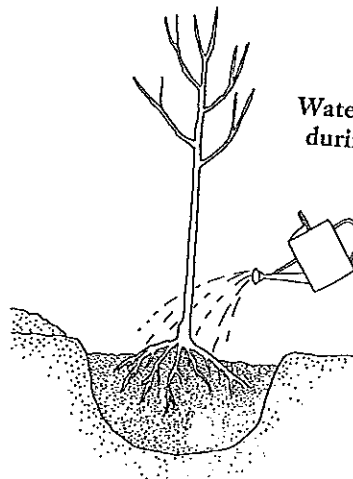
- Rehydrate bare root trees by soaking several hours in tub
- Prepare the soil- work in compost to a depth of at least two feet
- Remove damaged roots and set tree at proper depth-level with crown
- Backfill hole with soil 1/2 way, tamp out air pockets, fill hole with water
- Backfill rest of soil, tamping out air pockets and stake properly
- During first warm season, deep water 1-2 times per week



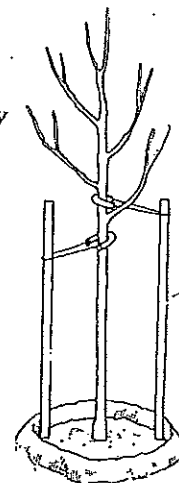
Remove damaged roots and set the tree at proper depth.



Water thoroughly during planting.



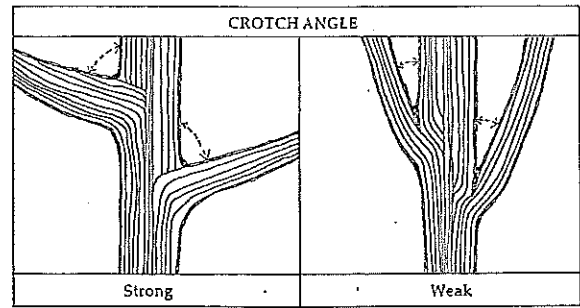
A slight depression directs water toward the roots.



5. Pruning at Planting

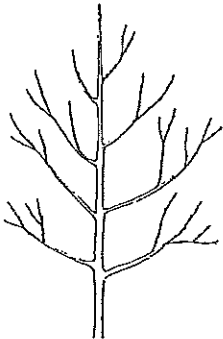
Heading Back:

Balances top growth to roots,
Creates secondary scaffolding branches

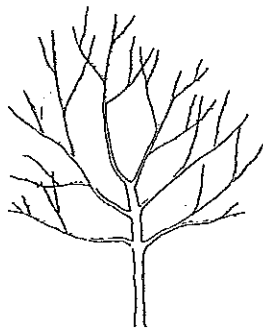


Train Wide Crotch Angles:
Prevents breakage by heavy fruit set

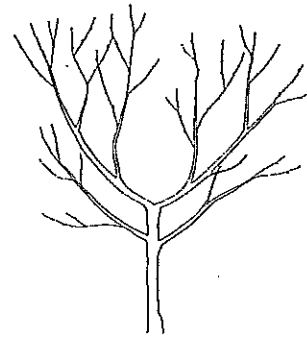
6. Training Trees into desired shape



Central Leader
Apples & Pears



Modified Leader
Apples, Pears & Plums



Open Center
Plums, Peaches,
Apricots, Cherries

7. Anatomy of Tree Pruning- Do not top or mutilate your trees!

Winter Pruning:

- Remove dead, broken or diseased branches
- Remove unproductive water sprouts and suckers
- Remove crossed and rubbing branches
- Remove crowded branches to allow sunlight
- Head back 1/2 of newest growth to reduce weight

Mid-Summer Pruning:

- Remove new waterspouts & suckers
- Dense foliage in center of tree
- Head Back or Prop up Branches in danger of splitting from fruit weight

