Growing Fruit Trees in Maine

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There are different reasons why people grow fruit trees. Some grow fruit trees to have home-grown fruit for eating fresh or for preserving. Others maintain fruit trees as a source of food for wildlife. Orchards can be low or high maintenance depending on the desires of the gardener. When the goal is to produce a large supply of blemish-free fruit, an orchard will require annual care. Trees planted for their spring flowers or as a source of food for wildlife require little or no care.

A greater knowledge of the cultural requirements takes the guesswork out of growing fruit trees. Selecting a species or variety that is adapted to the local climate and resistant to common diseases eliminates problems that can lead to tree death, lack of productivity and reliance on chemical sprays.

- Selecting Varieties
- Pollination Requirements
- Rootstocks and Dwarf Fruit Trees
- Planting and Early Care
- Pruning
  - Training Systems
  - Types of Pruning Cuts
  - Flower Buds
  - Pruning Examples
- Fruit Thinning
- Lack of Fruitfulness
- Spraying
- Diseases
- Insect Pests
- Protecting Trees from Deer and Mice

If you would like to know more about tree fruit production or other types of gardening, please contact the University of Maine Cooperative Extension or the Highmoor Farm.

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