



Fruit Tree Basics

1. Different Types of Fruit Trees

- a. Tropical- Evergreen
- b. Citrus - Evergreen
- c. Stone Fruit - Deciduous
- d. Pome - Apple and Pear - Deciduous

2. Beginner Trees (Easy to grow)

- a. Figs, Pomegranate, Mexican lime, Mulberry, Moringa, Mesquite
 - i. Mesquite trees are commonly known as a fast growing shade tree, and they also produce edible pods that can be harvested just before the first monsoon, grind to make flour, low glycemic index.

3. Root Stock & Chill hours matter- choose one that is suitable to thrive in our low desert, zone 9b & 10a. Choose varieties that require 300 or less chill hours. (Greenlife, Whitfills, Summerwinds are reputable nurseries to purchase from)

4. Create a Microclimate

- a. Improve soil conditions
- b. Identify sandy or wet spots
- c. Provide shade & creates a cooler environment
- d. Mulch & cover crop bare spots - add 1-2' of mulch and organic matter every year.

5. Choose Location

- a. Not too close to houses, walls, or brick/block walls. 10ft away at least.
- b. Clear gravel 20 feet away from the tree.
- c. Afternoon shade is best, so on the East side of houses or to the East of shade trees to protect from afternoon sun if possible.

6. Planting

- a. Dig a hole twice the width of the root ball and the same depth as the nursery container.

- b. Do not cover the graft
- c. Make sure root flare is exposed
- d. Create berm to feed and water properly
- e. Back fill hole with 50% compost / 50% natural soil
- f. Compact soil to get rid of air pockets
- g. Sprinkle castings on top of soil, then compost
- h. Apply mulch - avoid touching the tree trunk. It keeps soil temp cooler, conserves water, breaks down as beneficial bacteria & fungi that feed the roots, worms, and other organisms.
- i. Spacing - minimum 10 feet apart, 20 feet is better.

7. Fertilizing & Worm Tea

- a. Use natural and organic - compost, castings, worm tea, and BSFL fertilizer
- b. Valentine's Day, Memorial Day, and Labor Day
- c. Castings - enriches the soil creating a more sustainable & slow release fertilizer
- d. Compost - organic material, feeds the microbes, provides nutrients to the soil
- e. BSFL Fertilizer - Slow release, evenly balanced NPK, made here on the farm, sustainable. Enhances blooming
- f. Worm Tea- available on Fri & Sat only- Stimulates root growth, strengthens leaves, provides extra protection against sunburn and frost damage.

8. Stone Fruit Pruning

- a. Sharpen and sanitize tools
- b. Hard prune in January when tree is dormant
- c. Size control
- d. Goblet shaped scaffolding branches for stone fruits
- e. Remove dead, diseased or crossing branches
- f. Keep the center open for air circulation and sunlight

9. Citrus Pruning

- a. Lack of pruning suckers can cause sour or deformed fruit.
- b. Sharpen and clean tools with disinfectant wipes every time you prune
- c. Before pruning, do a full observation of the tree.

Very important to keep a closed canopy, never open the center of the tree.

- i. February & March or after the last frost date and before or during budding

MOST young trees need shade protection for the first two summers.

10. Watering Mature Trees

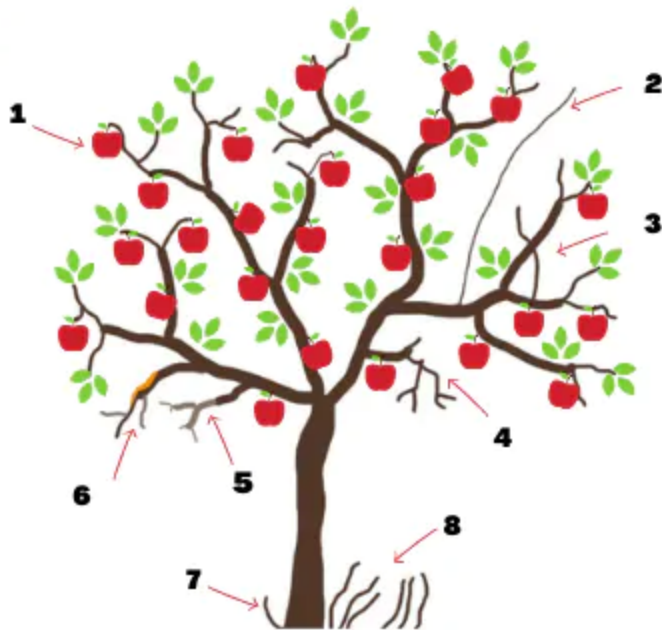
- a. Infrequently - once per week (April - June)
- b. About 40 gallons per hour, once per week
- c. Finger test is best - don't trust a moisture meter

- d. July - September (2X per week)
- e. Oct - December (Every other week)
- f. December - March (every 2-3 weeks depending on rain)

11. Fruit

- a. Year 1 - root establishment- and very little fruit, probably bitter or sour.
- b. Year 2 - shoots- establishing shape of tree -a lil more fruit, better tasting.
- c. Year 3 - fruits- first full yield of tasty fruit!

BEFORE PRUNING



WHAT TO REMOVE

- 1. Some Fruit**
- 2. Water Sprout**
- 3. Crossing Branches**
- 4. Broken Branches**
- 5. Dead Branches**
- 6. Diseased Branches**
- 7. Growth Arising
Below the Graft
Junctions**
- 8. Suckers Growing
From Base of
Trunk & Roots**

AFTER PRUNING



<https://www.naturehills.com/blog/post/pruning-frui>

Sharpening Tool

