

THE LEGACY ORCHARD JOURNAL

SEASONAL WISDOM FOR EDIBLE LANDSCAPES WITH
PURPOSE

ISSUE 01: Prune now, not later: Why summer is the best time
to shape your trees



INSIGHT OF THE WEEK:

WINTER PRUNING WAKES A TREE UP. SUMMER PRUNING CALMS IT DOWN. IF
YOUR TREES ARE OUTGROWING THEIR SPACE, THIS IS THE SEASON TO ACT.
CUTTING BACK GROWTH NOW REDIRECTS ENERGY TO ROOT SYSTEMS AND
FRUIT—RATHER THAN EXCESSIVE BRANCH EXTENSION.

A personal note from Edil

Growing fruit trees—like growing anything worthwhile—takes more than knowledge. It takes patience, attention, and heart.

I know firsthand the joy of planting with vision... and the frustration when things don't go as planned. I've stood under branches wondering if I got it right, and I've felt that quiet pride when a tree finally fruits after years of care.

That's why I write this newsletter—not just to teach, but to walk with you. Whether you're managing a whole acre or a single espaliered tree along a fence, your orchard matters. Your effort matters. And if you ever feel overwhelmed, just remember: growth is rarely loud, but it's always happening.

Each issue is here to offer real support, not fluff—rooted in experience, honesty, and the belief that beauty and legacy can live right outside your door.

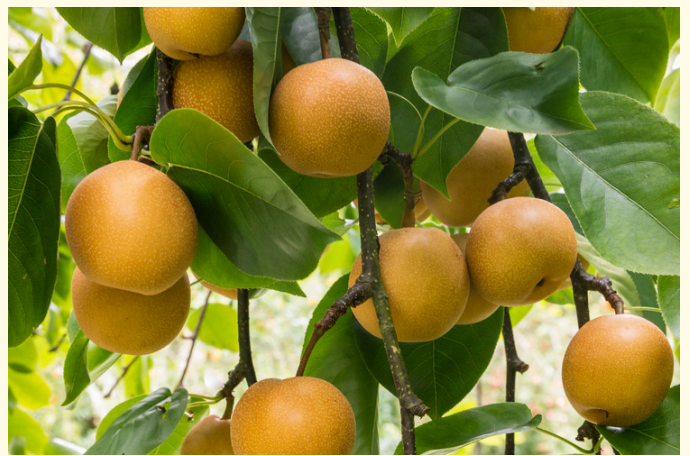
Let's keep growing,
– Edil

👉 What part of your orchard (or life) needs to slow down so something sweeter can grow?

JULY: THE SECRET PRUNING WINDOW.

BENEFITS OF SUMMER PRUNE

Winter pruning wakes a tree up. Summer pruning calms it down. When you prune in the summer, you're redirecting a tree's energy from growth into fruit and root development—helping the tree stabilize, rather than stimulate. This is especially helpful if you're trying to keep fruit trees compact, manageable, or contained within a designed space like an espalier or small yard. Cutting back overgrown limbs now slows down next year's vigor while giving light and airflow to this year's ripening fruit. It's also easier to see which branches are shading others or crossing awkwardly once the canopy is full. If your trees are stretching too tall, overtaking pathways, or not producing well, now is your moment. Summer pruning is your design tool—it helps you balance form, function, and fruit.



COACH'S CORNER

Prune with purpose. Every cut you make is a design decision. Are you shaping the canopy to create a shaded bench spot beneath it? Are you opening space to allow bees better access to fruit blossoms? Maybe you're controlling size for easier harvesting. Always ask yourself: what am I encouraging with this cut? Less is more—remove what crosses, shades, or shoots vertically too fast. Stand back and observe after each round of cuts. That pause will train your eye and deepen your relationship with the tree.



PRUNING: THE LOST CRAFT



THIS WEEK IN THE ORCHARD

- We're currently thinning out vigorous branches on Fig and Asian pear trees, cutting back suckers that are growing vertically too fast and removing interior clutter that blocks airflow.

- Sap flow is active but less aggressive in summer than spring, which means cuts heal well without excessive bleeding—making it an ideal time to manage older trees.

- We're also harvesting early ripening stone fruits like apricots and cherries, being careful not to damage next season's buds while picking.

- Tip: If you're planning to do heavier pruning, avoid doing it during a heat wave—trees are already stressed in extreme heat, and open wounds make them more vulnerable.

Need help knowing what to cut, where, how and when? Book a personalized pruning coaching session and get clarity for your trees—and your long-term vision.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

A columnar apple tree shaped into a graceful espalier along a sunlit stone wall. This design saves space, improves airflow, and turns a simple fruit tree into a living sculpture.

Let's design a tree plan that grows with your land and your family.

Apply for a Fall Orchard Design Consult

<https://backyard-orchard.com/>



<https://backyard-orchard.com/>
edil@backyard-orchard.com