

INTRODUCTION TO PRUNING FRUIT TREES – Sumac Skillshare, 9/2/08

WHY PRUNE?

- To create (and then maintain) shape and framework, and prevent overcrowding of branches
- To control vigour
- To promote fruit bud formation
- To remove diseased or dead branches

WHEN TO PRUNE?

Stone Fruit (plums, cherries, apricots etc) – always prune in Summer only, to reduce danger of infection

All others: prune in Winter to : Create form by stimulating growth
Remove overcrowded or diseased branches
Regulate production of fruiting buds (spurs)

prune in Summer to : Restrict vigour, especially in restricted forms (eg. espaliers / cordons)

RESOURCES

BOOKS

Baker, Harry. “**The Fruit Garden Displayed**”, 3rd Ed, 1991. Cassell / Royal Horticultural Society.
Classic guide to all aspects of fruit growing; now out-of-print, but well worth getting if you can find it.

Brickell and Joyce. “**RHS Essential Pruning and Training**”, 2006. Dorling Kindersley.
Very comprehensive, covering much more than fruit trees. Excellent for beginners, and well-illustrated.

Hessayon, D.G. “**The Fruit Expert**”, 2002. Expert/Transworld.
Popular, clear, inexpensive and very useful.

ONLINE PRUNING GUIDES

A good general summary, which also has links to YouTube video guides to pruning :
<http://www.fruitwise.net/prune.html>

A useful overview : [.http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pruning_fruit_trees](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pruning_fruit_trees)

A technical guide from the USA: http://eap.mcgill.ca/CPTFP_7.htm#Central.leader%20development

SELECTED FRUIT NURSERIES

Cool Temperate (Awworth, Notts): 0115 916 2673, <http://www.cooltemperate.co.uk/>
Very good local supplier, giving profits to permaculture research projects. Also supply unusual edible / useful plants. Well worth supporting.

Scotts (Somerset): 01460 72306, <http://scottsnurseries.co.uk/>
A wide range of fruit and ornamental trees (including old varieties) with informative and useful catalogue.

Keeper's Nursery (Kent): 01622 726465, <http://www.keepers-nursery.co.uk>
Probably the largest range of fruit trees in the UK. Informative website.