

Ten Things to Know About Fruit Tree Pruning

1. Keep height to 6 ft—can prune and care without a ladder.

ANR Pub 8057: Fruit Trees: Training and Pruning Deciduous Trees

ANR Pub 8058: Fruit Trees: Pruning Overgrown Deciduous Trees

2. Thin fruit. Short version, 5 to 6 inches between fruits.

ANR Pub 8047: Fruit Trees: Thinning Young Fruit Trees

3. Pruning establishes sound structure, promotes air circulation, balances shady leaves and sunny branches, assists fruit production.

http://homeorchard.ucanr.edu/The_Big_Picture/Pruning_&_Training/

4. Tree anatomy must knows: scaffold branches, lateral branches, nodes, fruiting wood and spurs, watersprouts, branch collar.

<http://homeorchard.ucanr.edu/Glossary/>

5. Dormant pruning manages fruit, and tree structure. Summer pruning manages tree size.

UC ANR Pub 3485: The Home Orchard (C. Ingels, P. Geisel, M. Norton)

http://homeorchard.ucanr.edu/The_Big_Picture/Pruning_&_Training/

6. Pruning vocabulary must knows: leader, open center, thinning cut, heading cut, topping.

http://homeorchard.ucanr.edu/The_Big_Picture/Pruning_&_Training/

7. Pruning tool must knows: hand pruner, lopper, pruning saw, safety, sharpening, sanitation. NO ladders.

<http://ucanr.edu/sites/ucmgnapa/files/205844.pdf> (D. Layland)

8. Getting started: allow plenty of time, assemble all tools, step back and look, start at the back or bottom to get the feel.

9. Guidelines: work from inside to outside, never leave a stub, when heading, cut back to out-facing bud, when thinning, cut outside the branch collar, don't seal or paint the cut.

10. All the fruits and nuts.

http://homeorchard.ucanr.edu/Fruits_&_Nuts/

11. BONUS! SUNSHINE must know!