

Pruning Fruit Trees — Step by Step

1. Observe tree structure and where fruit grows.
2. Clarify your goals for tree.
3. Remove dead, dying, broken branches.
4. Remove any diseased branches.
5. Remove water sprouts (& most competing branches growing straight up).
6. Remove crossing or touching branches.
7. Consider branch angles (45°- 60° upward bears fruit weight best).
 - a. Downward branches lose vigor over time.
 - b. New growth occurs 1" – 8" from your cut.
8. Thin unnecessary and crowded growth.
9. Shorten long branches; cut back to lateral.
10. Remove suckers at base.