



The Fruit Tree Care Guide

Provided by Mid City Nursery

Fertilizing:


Spring - Fall

Fertilize your fruit trees and fruiting vines once as they emerge from dormancy. This is usually late February to March. We recommend using **Master Start** (5-20-10), or **EB Stone All Purpose** (5-5-5). This fertilizer will help with fruit production and root development without encouraging too much growth. Fertilize once again in Late Spring after the fruit has set with **Master Start** or **Sure Start**. Finally, fertilize in Late Summer to Early Fall with **Fruit Tree and Vine Food** to encourage new fruit wood for next year.

Winter:

Starting in mid October to early November begin fertilizing your fruit trees and fruiting vines with **Master Bloom** or **EB Stone Ultra Bloom** (0-10-10) and **F.S.T.** (iron, sulfur, manganese, and zinc). These two products should be applied once a month through January. By applying these fertilizers during the Winter months, you are helping build up the necessary nutrients that your trees and vines will need in the Spring as they emerge from dormancy so that they can flower and fruit well.

Pruning:

There are different methods and time frames for pruning. For most homeowners, you will want to read **Backyard Orchard Culture**, this article discusses a new technique for keeping your trees smaller and more manageable. This requires Late Spring and Late Summer pruning, instead of Winter pruning. This brochure is available at our nursery and on our web site. A good book we carry about traditional fruit tree pruning is “**How to Prune Fruit Trees**”. This book talks about almost every fruit tree and fruiting vine. If you prefer traditional pruning methods, then prune while the trees are dormant in Winter. A great source of planting and pruning information is **Davewilson.com**  Check out their Fruit Tube videos.

Watering:

Newly planted fruit trees should be watered DEEPLY once a week during the growing season (4-6 gallons per week) (Spring - Fall). They may require more frequent watering during very hot periods. If you are using a drip system, then make sure water is covering the entire root area. This usually requires 2 or 3 drippers to be placed around the tree or the use of a bubbler style dripper. Watering in the Winter months, when the tree is dormant, is only required when there has been extended periods of no rainfall. As fruit trees become older and more established, less frequent watering is required, about every 10 to 14 days. However, they may need to receive additional watering during hot Summer days or sudden heat waves.

Disease and Insect Control:

Most fruit trees will require some form of disease or insect control each year. Preventing potential problems is easier and more effective than treating after the fact. Dormant spraying (November-January) can greatly reduce fungal diseases and bug infestations that show up in the Spring. We recommend using a combination of **Liqui-Cop** (copper based fungicide) and **Master Nursery Pest Fighter Oil** to cover most issues. Apples, Pears, Asian Pears, and Cherries may require additional treatments for other bug problems. Please inquire with us regarding what is best for your trees specific needs.

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www.midcitynursery.com