

PRUNING NOTES

Rootstocks:- determine vigour / size of mature plant / time to steady cropping

	Height/Spread/Radius	Apple	Pear	Plum	Cherry
Extreme Dwarf	6'	m27			Pixie
Dwarf	8'	m9			Colt
Bush / Semi-dwarf	12'	m26	Quince A	St. Julian A	
Half-standard	20'+	mm106/mm111			
Standard	30'+	m25	ba29	Myrobalan	

N.b. Prunus species. Prune only when sap flowing, late spring / summer, to help heal wounds quickly.
=(Cherry, Plum, Damson, Gage, Peach, Nectarine, Apricot, Almond)

Fruitwood (Scion):- each variety has its own individual characteristics and requirements, such as its vigour or whether it tends to fruit more on the **tips** of new growth or the mature **spurs** of older wood.

Graft:- point where Rootstock is joined to Scion.

Vital to stop Scion rooting. Ensure Graft above soil level.

4 basic types of Pruning for trees of different ages / conditions:-

1. **Formative** 1-5 years according to vigour / habit / longevity / rootstock
 2. **Recovery** 5-10 taming wild / reshaping / remove broken & damaged
 3. **Regenerative** 10-50 remove a third of branches over 1 inch a year for 3 yrs
 4. **Radical** 50+ back to trunk / skeleton / root-pruning / ring-barking
- + Summer pruning to encourage fruiting buds and special training to a form.

What to do

1. Remove all **Dead, Dying, Diseased and Crossing** wood.
2. Check, clear and clean old wounds, dead and aborted buds / bark / galls.
3. Fill available volume in all 3 dimensions of space and then project shape forwards in time, so that it will be strong enough to bear weight of future crop.
Create a balanced shape, like a goblet or wine-glass. **It is** easiest to see shape when the tree is bare in winter. Reduce crowding in the centre and remove shaded growth lower down. Try to generate optimal sun exposure and ventilation.

Continuous Cropping (> biennial fruiting) if balance between wood-leaf growth and flowering-fruiting wood.

Types of **Buds:** 1. **Flower** - short, fat, round / in clusters / fruiting spurs. 2nd year wood.

2. **Woody / Extension** - thin / pointed (in direction of future growth). New wood.

Auxins:- growth hormones concentrated in terminal buds (2) / tips of branches / highest

Cuts:- an eighth of an inch / 2mm away from bud, parallel to the direction it points to.

Remaining bud towards space / facing sun / sloping to allow rain to runoff, not collect.

Dripline:- Concentric circle, bigger as tree ages, where new, fibrous, feeder roots form.

Needs mulching / weed-free until tree mature. Cultivate to regenerate older trees.

Wound-healing:- natural, healthy circular welt of bark to cover cut in 5-10 yrs

Treatments:- Anti-biotic (chemical fungicide) OR Pro-biotic (sweat / Biodynamic paste)

Learner Sig.

Date

Assessor Sig.