

PRUNING NOTES

ROOTSTOCKS determine vigour / size of mature plant / time to steady cropping

	<u>Height/Spread/Radius</u>	<u>Apple</u>	<u>Pear</u>	<u>Plum</u>	<u>Cherry</u>
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.

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 + 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)