Grow healthy trees & more fruit with these simple steps!

Choosing a Location
It takes sun to make sugar—the more sun the better. Plant fruit trees so they get at least 6–8 hours of sun, preferably in the afternoon. A south and west exposure is best. Since the Pacific Northwest has little rain between June and October, when fruit matures, plant the tree where you can water it. Consistent water produces larger fruit.

Planting
It’s best to plant fruit trees in fall or early spring. Dig a large planting hole, break up the rootball, and water deeply after planting. Mulch the tree, but don’t add fertilizer. Find specific planting instructions at the City Fruit website: www.cityfruit.org/grow/planting.htm

Watering & Mulching
After rains stop in spring, water deeply once a week. For dwarfining rootstock, do this for the tree’s lifetime. Mulch the tree to hold moisture in the ground, moderate soil temperature and reduce competition from grass and weeds. Keep grass 6 feet away from the tree for the first few years.

Pollination
Some fruit trees are self-pollinating (e.g. Lapin cherries), while others need to be pollinated by other varieties (e.g., apples). For information about weather, bees and pollination, see City Fruit: www.cityfruit.org/grow/pollination.htm

Pruning
Fruit trees are resilient—if you prune away too much, it will grow back! There are different reasons for pruning—to train young trees, to produce more fruit, to renovate old trees. And different types of trees are pruned in different ways. See Resources section below and the City Fruit website for information on pruning: www.cityfruit.org/grow/pruning.htm

Preventing pests
Disease resistant apples need little attention for scab and fungus. The most serious pests—codling moth and apple maggot—can be reduced or eliminated by using non-chemical precautions. For information on managing pests see the Resources section below and visit the City Fruit website: www.cityfruit.org

Resources
City Fruit
www.cityfruit.org & info@cityfruit.org

Fruit Handbook for Western Washington
http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb0937/eb0937.pdf

Seattle Tree Fruit Society
www.seattlefruitsoociety.com

Seattle Tilth Garden Hotline
(206) 633-0224 or help@gardenhotline.org

Washington State University Ext.
Master Gardeners
(206) 296-3440

Friends of Piper Orchard
www.piperorchard.org

Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation
www.wwfrf.org

Portland Home Orchard Society
www.homeorchardsociety.org

N. Carolina Coop. Ext. on Training & Pruning Fruit Trees
www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/ag29.html

Western Cascade Fruit Society
www.wcfs.org

“Leaving too many fruits on a tree means fewer cells for each fruit, which translate into smaller fruit that is often of poor quality.”

— from the Fruit Handbook for Western Washington

Learn more at cityfruit.org – info@cityfruit.org