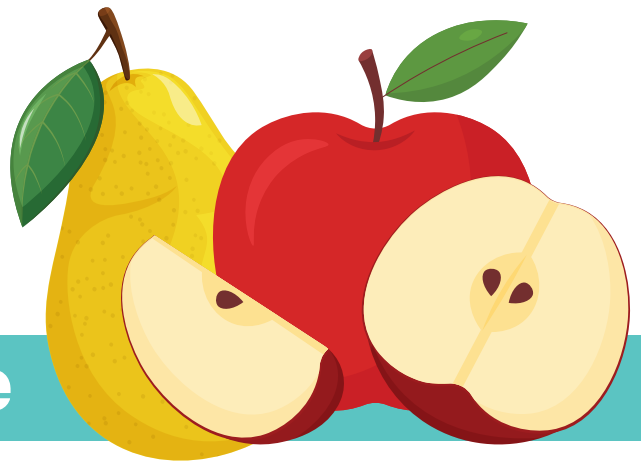


ZAMZOWS

Backyard Berry & Fruit Fest



Basic Apple & Pear Care

Feeding

Three feedings of Dr. JimZ Chicken Soup for The Soil will assure your trees are healthy and productive. Begin feeding in March per the label instructions. Subsequent feedings in June for the developing fruit and again in September for ripening are recommended. Avoid fertilizers with high amounts of nitrogen, which lead to excessive growth, poor fruit quality, and increased insects and diseases.

Water

Newly planted and younger trees will need more frequent watering than established trees because their roots will be shallower when they are young. But as they mature, trees should be watered longer and less frequently because watering deeply promotes root growth, giving your trees access to a greater variety of nutrients. Established fruit trees' roots reach up to two feet deep.

Fruit Spurs

Fruit develops from short, long-lived shoots, called spurs. Spurs grow a rosette of leaves behind a large bud called the terminal bud at its tip. Clusters of five flowers will emerge from the terminal bud to set fruit. Spurs develop from branches that are at least two years old and are productive for up to ten years.

Pruning

Pruning of apples and pears is required yearly in late winter or early spring. Remove all limbs that have been damaged or died during the winter. Then remove any limbs that are crossing over another. Don't remove too many limbs with fruiting spurs, as this will decrease fruit production. Remember, it takes two years for new spurs to form. Remove any branches that open the trees canopy for more sun and more consistent spray coverage. Fruit spurs should be no closer than 4 to 6 inches apart. Keep these factors in mind when choosing which branches to remove.

1. Is it fruit-bearing or not?
2. Will future growth cause crowding?

After pruning in spring, it's recommended to spray dormant oil. Dormant oil will suffocate overwintering bugs, eggs, larvae, and reduce incidences of diseases. Pruning paints and sealers are not needed.

Fruit Thinning

Apples and pears will often produce more fruit than they can handle. Proper thinning of excessive fruit increases quality and size. Flower clusters with multiple fruit sets should be thinned to a single fruit. Fruit spurs should be spaced 4-6 inches apart. Any spurs developing closer than 4-6 inches, should be removed to prevent overcrowding. A limb should never need additional support for its fruit. Branches that begin to bend because of fruit need to be thinned.

Harvest

The timing of harvest varies for each variety of apple and pear. Some will ripen as early as August and as late as October. Once their seeds have turned a coffee-brown color, they are fully ripe.