

## Choice of 3 Different Trees:

### STONE FRUIT TREE:

grows assorted combinations of  
2 Peaches, 2 Nectarines, 2 Plums,  
Apricot and Peachcot

### CITRUS TREE:

grows assorted combinations of  
2 Oranges, 2 Mandarins, Lemon, Lime,  
Grapefruit, Tangelo, Pomelo, Lemonade

### APPLE TREE:

grows different Apples only



## Fruit Salad Tree Co.

NATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS (ABN: 87 305 922 155)

**Proudly Australian made and owned**

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# Fruit Salad Trees

## Up to **6 Different Fruits** on **One Tree** IN GARDENS or IN POTS

## Care Instructions

The Fruit Salad tree is a very practical and unique tree for the small backyard because it's a multi-grafted tree that produces a variety of different fruits, all ripening at different times! This eliminates the "glut" that is familiar with a single variety tree. Each graft grows independently from the others and therefore all the different fruits retain their own characteristics eg. flavour, appearance, size of fruit etc.

**WARM CLIMATES** or  
**COLD CLIMATES**

## 2 SPECIAL CARE REQUIREMENTS

### Point 1 Keep Tree Balanced!

Establish a well 'balanced' tree by pruning back the more vigorous growing grafts, **any time and regularly during the growing season**. Thin out branching of each graft, if needed, to equalize growth vigour!

Otherwise the more vigorous growers will become bigger and stronger and dominate, at the expense of the slower growers.

This should be done once a month and is especially important while the tree is young and developing! Continue to maintain a 'balance' of growth for each graft, until mature height is reached.

**STRONGLY RECOMMEND:** Keep each graft confined to grow in its own area of the tree, this will assist in recognizing the faster and slower growers.

### Point 2 Remove Any Rootstock Growth!

When you receive the tree, you will notice some white paint marks on the central stem of the tree, (the rootstock tree). These are indicating the exact location of each graft and their anchor points. **DO NOT** ever cut these off. This is where your fruiting branches begin to grow and further develop branch work that will hold the increasing fruit production. The label on the tree tells you the fruit name for each of the grafts.

**YOU MUST** remove any other shoots that may grow from anywhere along that main central stem of the rootstock tree **AND** also remove any growth that may shoot up from the ground or soil level. Cut as soon as you can and as low as you can. This is also growth of the 'mother' tree or rootstock tree and is of no value for fruit production.

Rootstock trees bring nourishment to their attached grafts. Citrus rootstock growth has small leaves with 3 sections to them and very long sharp thorns. Check and remove regularly.

## MATURE HEIGHT OF TREES: (in GROUND)

Citrus is dwarfing, height (h) about 2 metres, width (w) 2 metres.  
Stone Fruits (h) about 3 metres, (w) about 2.5 metres.  
Apples (h) 2 - 3 metres, (w) 2 metres. (Recommend Espalier)

All trees can be grown by espalier method (see heading), this will save space, or you may choose the 'stand alone' position.

When growing in a POT, size of tree will be determined by size of the pot. E.g. half wine barrel pot, tree would reach about half 'in ground' size. See "large pot growing".

## PLANTING OUT:

Planting can be done any season of the year, best late in the day when cooler. Quarter fill a bucket and soak tree overnight, prior to planting out. Spread out roots a little. Dig a little wider than pot, to depth of 2/3 of pot, leaving 1/3 above ground. This will ensure good drainage especially if soil is clay type. Mound up good top soil around the tree. Make sure lower branch union is well above soil. Stake the tree to secure.

If soil is heavy clay then add a few handfuls of gypsum on top of ground and a little into the hole.  
If sandy soil, add organic matter, put animal manure on top (older is better) OR if available, compost.

**Other options** are Dynamic Lifter (equivalent) OR blood and bone.

**Alternatively** use the slow release fertiliser Osmocote (containing trace elements) and mix in with soil.

Water in well with each layer of soil mixture, leaving no air pockets and firm down. Add mulch on top to keep moist. Water next day, then twice weekly for 3 weeks / as required.



PTO for further instructions.

## WATERING:

Keep plant moist at all times, watering more often during the hotter months. A good layer of mulch promotes a more consistent moisture level. Weekly deep watering is best, i.e. leave hose on trickle overnight. This promotes a deeper root development for the tree, rather than surface watering. Reduce watering habits for dormant trees during winter months.

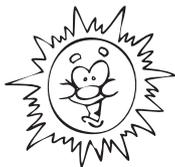
## FERTILISING:

Fertilize three times a year! APPLY late Winter, late Spring and late Summer. Cow or animal manure (older is better) and compost are excellent fertilizers. Otherwise suggestions would be: a slow release fertilizer (Osmocote with added trace elements) mixed into the soil, Blood and Bone types, Dynamic Lifter/equivalent. No more than one or two of these fertilisers to each application. From time to time can add kitchen scraps under mulch to attract earthworms (If no dogs about!).

When using fertilizers, keep from direct contact with trunk of tree. Top up mulch when required.

## SUN REQUIREMENTS:

Best to place in position with full day sun or a minimum of half day, sheltered from wind if possible. Citrus trees require sun all year round however, Stone Fruits and Apples are dormant only during late Autumn and early Winter months when sun is not required.



## FIRST FRUITS:

First fruits will appear in approximately 6 – 18 months. It's best to remove most of these fruits when the size of a tiny pea and allow the framework (branches) of all the grafts to develop first. **This is especially important whilst the tree is young.** As the tree grows, thin out the amount of fruit to set, always promoting branch growth as well. Framework needs to be ahead of fruit production. More fruit may be allowed to set on any faster growing grafts however, always reduce fruits on the slower growers. **Better to remove those fruits at very end of branch work** as they tend to pull down branches or stake to secure and support.

## Growing - Espalier Method

Suitable for any of the trees but especially for Apples. Attach the branching along wires or lattice type framework. The 'fan' shape results in faster growth.

Secure branches with expandable ties.



"Fan Shape"

## FRUIT FLY BAITING:

No spraying required for the tree or fruit. Mix into 1 Litre of water, 20ml Fruit Fly Lure and 4.5ml Maldison. Apply 60ml of the solution by splashing onto lower leaves of branches, closest to trunk of tree. Begin to apply when fruit is small, about pea/marble size. Apply weekly and reapply after rain. To provide added protection, put a small amount of the solution into a container, hang on the tree or nearby, and fix so that fruit fly has access to the liquid but it's protected from rain.

\*Fruit Fly Lure can be purchased from Bugs for Bugs (07) 4165 4663, if not available locally.

## LARGE POT GROWING:

Planting can be done any time of the year. Late in the day when weather cooler is best. Quarter fill a bucket and soak to wet all roots. Remove from pot by cutting bag with a knife. Knock off about half the old soil and tease out roots a little. Start with a pot a little wider than original size (about 30cm diameter) and progressively pot up each year so that in a few years' time, the tree will reach half a large wine barrel size. Tree can also be planted into a very large pot to start, but remember to change the soil at least every two years and fertilise more often, e.g. 3-4 times a year.

Mix together 50/50 a good potting mix and good top soil. Enrich by adding 1 Tbsp of Osmocote (slow release fertilizer) that includes trace elements. Mix altogether and wash in well. Add mulch on top. Fertilise from top at least twice a year - suggestions see 'Fertilising'. Water crystals can also be added and **keep a tray under the pot to catch excess nutritious water** the tree can then reabsorb

**When potting up to next size, place pot on its side and remove.** Knock off half the used soil, tease out roots a little and replant as above into the larger pot. Increase in pot size each year.

**To maintain same pot size, trim off any excess roots, i.e. those wrapping tightly around the outside of the root system. Then immediately cut back the branching of the tree, to compensate for loss of those roots. Also knock off half the used soil, tease out remaining roots and repot back into the same pot with fresh soil and nutrients. Continue this maintenance in same pot i.e. 'bonsai'.** After repeated same size repotting, reduce the inner core roots.

The size of the tree and the amount of 'normal size' fruit to harvest will be determined by the size of the pot. See 'Height for Trees'.



## SHAPING OF THE FRUIT TREE:

All growth needs to be encouraged in direction away from the centre of the tree. Sunlight needs to be filtering to all branches and fruits, so keep centre of tree fairly open. Pinch out any inward growing branches and those growing in the wrong direction, this will not harm the tree but redirects energy to the outward growing branches. When branching is growing too long, cut to 'bush up'. Cut above an outward pointing bud or leaf. If too much branching, thin out to make a strong framework.



## ANNUAL WINTER PRUNING

### Stone Fruits:

Apart from the continual pruning for shape and balance, apply annual pruning, in early winter. Prune 1/3 (young tree) to 1/2 (mature tree) of the current year's growth, cut above an outward bud. The colour of the bark will indicate the amount of growth for the last season.

For Stone Fruit Trees only, Leaf Curl Disease Prevention: It is highly recommended to apply either No. 1 or both of the following applications:

1. At Leaf Fall i.e. autumn (by early May - remove leaves if not yet fallen), spray thoroughly with Lime Sulphur, apply twice, about a week apart. (Hand sprayer)
2. Use a Copper spray, adding a few drops of dishwashing liquid, at bud swell (before bud burst), when tree is beginning to 'wake up' from dormancy. **Can be as early as June!** Do this twice, about a week apart (Hand sprayer).

**Citrus:** After fruiting, cut back just a little and thin out branching for sunlight penetration. Heavy pruning is not required.