

PESTS AND DISEASES

We have a comprehensive Pest and Disease Guide on our website that shows you how to easily identify and treat common pests and diseases of your tree. Find it under the Tree Care section.



See below for essential spraying required for your tree.

SPRAYING

Spraying your trees protects them from insects, bacterial and fungal infections. Timing of sprays can be critical in controlling certain pests and diseases.



Leaf Curl spray for Stone Fruits

At leaf fall (when the leaves have fallen from the tree in Autumn), spray the tree thoroughly with Lime Sulphur. This needs to be done twice, 1 week apart.

Clean up spray for Stone Fruits

When the tree has started to wake up from dormancy and the flower buds are swelling, spray the tree with a Copper Fungicide (i.e. Copper Oxychloride) and ½ teaspoon of dishwashing liquid. This also needs to be done twice, 1 week apart. Timing is critical, BEFORE bud burst. Note: in some areas, this could be July!

These sprays also help with other fungal diseases such as Shot Hole, Rust and will kill off Mites and Scale.

Clean up spray for Apples

Treat Apple trees with Copper Fungicide through Winter, once a week for two weeks.

This will help to reduce pests and diseases such as Powdery Mildew, Rust, Mites and Scale.

Clean Up spray for Citrus

Citrus can be sprayed with a Copper Fungicide through Winter to help prevent White Louse Scale, Rust, Bud Mite and Sooty Blotch. Copper Fungicide can also be sprayed throughout the year to prevent fungal infections.

PRUNING

Autumn - Early Winter

Stone Fruit Trees: New growth (usually the greener bark on branches) indicates current years growth and should be pruned annually to promote vigorous growth in Spring.



If you have a young tree (1-3 years), trim the branches by one third. If you have an older tree, trim last season's growth by half.

Prune your tree by removing inward growing branches and keep the centre of your tree clear. This helps you identify each graft and allows sunlight in. See 'Shaping your Tree' section.

Citrus Trees: They do not need a heavy prune, however dead wood, cross branches and any diseased wood needs to be removed. Thin out the branches to allow sunlight in.

Apple Trees: These need to be pruned in Winter. Prune them the same way as a Stone Fruit tree.

ESPALIER



All our trees can be espaliered. This method saves space and is especially helpful for Apple trees, as it provides extra support for heavy cropping.

Attach the branch work along wires or frame. Secure branches with expandable ties to allow the expansion of new growth.

MORE INFORMATION

More information as well as fruit tree care videos are available on our website, under Tree Care. Scan the QR code to be directed to our website.

Visit us: www.fruitsaladtrees.com
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CARE INSTRUCTIONS

2 SPECIAL CARE POINTS

KEEP YOUR TREE BALANCED

You need to 'balance' or prune the grafts (branches) on your tree to maintain even growth of each graft. This will slow down the faster growing graft and provide more energy for the slower growing grafts to catch up, creating a 'balanced' tree.



Regularly (every 2 weeks is recommended), compare the size and length of each graft and prune back the faster growing grafts to keep your tree balanced.

See the balancing video on our website.

REMOVE ROOTSTOCK

There will be white paint around the base of each graft on your tree. This marks the point where each graft starts. Reapply paint annually to help identify your grafts. Do not cut the grafts off.



If there are branches growing from anywhere on the trunk outside these white paint marks, including any growth from the soil, these are rootstock branches and need to be removed.

See the removing rootstock video on our website.

MATURE HEIGHT

In the Ground

Stone Fruit Trees: 3m high x 3m wide.

Citrus Trees: 2.5m high x 2.5m wide.

Apple Trees: 3m high x 3m wide.



In Pots

Trees grown in a pot will be smaller in size. Their height is determined by the pot size. Example: If the tree is grown in a half a large wine barrel, it would grow to approximately half the "in the ground" size. Fruit size remains the same.



PLANTING

All the trees can be planted at any time of the year, and is best done in the cooler part of the day.

1. Quarter fill a bucket with water, and place the tree into the water. Allow to sit for 5 minutes, to saturate the roots.
2. Dig a hole for the tree, make sure the width of the hole is twice the size of the roots to allow room for growth.
3. Remove your tree from the water and cut off bag. Loosen the roots with your fingers before planting. Add good quality, free-draining soil or potting mix and cover the top of the roots.
- *If you have clay-based soil, it is best to mound plant your tree. Place the roots of the tree on top of the ground and mound up, free-draining soil to completely cover all roots.
4. Water in well to help settle the soil around the roots. Add more soil on top and stake tree if required.
5. After 2 weeks, add composted manure, slow release or controlled release fertiliser and add mulch as the top layer. Leave a 10cm gap from the trunk of the tree.

See the planting video on our website. 

SUN REQUIREMENTS

Fruit trees prefer full sun, although at least 50% is fine. Choose a spot out of strong wind if possible.

GROWING IN POTS

It's a good practice to start your tree in a pot that is a little larger than the planter bag it arrived in. As the tree grows, it can be repotted (potted-up) into a larger pot until you reach the desired pot size.



Maintain the health and vigour of your tree by replacing the potting mix every 12-18 months. If replanting into the same pot size, trim the roots to make sure it doesn't become root bound. The branches will need to be trimmed at the same time. Repeat each year to bonsai your tree.

Larger Pots

Trees can also be planted directly into larger pots, however potting mix will need to be replaced on an annual basis. Fertilise frequently.

FERTILISING



Fruit trees love to be fed and giving them fertilisers rich in Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) help them to thrive.

Fruit trees should be fertilised three times a year; late Winter, late Spring and late Summer.

We recommend composted manure, kelp fertiliser and controlled release fertiliser with trace elements. Make sure when adding fertilisers to leave a gap of 10cm from the trunk of the tree, to avoid trunk burn.

WATERING

Keep the soil/potting mix moist. Watering will need to be increased during the warmer months. Regularly adding a layer of mulch to the top of the soil is beneficial in maintaining soil moisture levels.



Slow or deep watering once a week will help to promote deeper roots. Potted trees should have a saucer and feet under the pot to help with drainage.

FRUITING

First Fruits

It is best to remove most of the flowers and fruit that develop during the first year whilst your tree is still small. This allows the branches of the tree to grow and promotes stronger roots, which can better anchor the tree and help to support more fruit in the following years.



Mature tree fruiting

As your tree matures, you may need to thin out some of the fruit each year until your tree branches are large enough to support the weight of the fruit.

If your tree isn't balanced during the fruiting season, remove as much fruit as possible from the slower growing grafts. This will promote more branch growth on these slower grafts and help to balance your tree.

SHAPING YOUR TREE

Fruit trees like sun and air to flow through their branches, this reduces the risk of disease on the tree. The centre of the tree needs to be open and clear for this purpose.



Prune and shape your tree by removing inward growing branches. All dead wood, diseased branches and cross branches should also be removed. This reduces any bacteria or fungus that may be present on the tree.

When pruning the branches on a graft, look for a bud (a small bump at base of a leaf) that is pointing outward i.e. away from the trunk of the tree. Cut just above it, then the new growth will grow from that bud.

It's a good idea to trim back the longer branches on your tree as this will promote thicker and "bushy" branch growth, which is less likely to break when fruiting.