



## AVERAGE FRUIT-BEARING AGE

The length of time from planting to fruit production varies depending on the species, the cultivar, and whether the fruit tree is dwarf or standard. Fruit trees purchased at a nursery or garden center are typically 1-2 years old at the time of purchase, and will take additional years after planting to mature and begin producing fruit. Apple and pear trees grown on dwarf/semi-dwarf rootstocks will come into bearing much earlier than trees grown on standard-size rootstocks. The average fruit-bearing age is as follows:

- Apple: 4-5 years
- Cherry (sour or tart): 3-5 years
- Citrus: 1-2 years
- Fig: 2-4 years
- Peach: 2-4 years
- Pear: 4-6 years
- Plum: 3-5 years



## PEST MANAGEMENT

The Farm at Green Village recommends **Bonide Fruit Tree Spray** for insect and fungal disease control on fruit trees.



- Complete plant coverage — concentrate that contains insecticide, fungicide, aphicide, miticide, scabicide, and a spreader sticker
- Controls a diverse selection of insects including Japanese beetles, mites, flea beetles, and aphids
- Controls certain diseases such as black spot, downy mildew, brown rot, and coryneum blight
- Foliage protector — used to guard apples, cherries, grapes, strawberries, peaches, roses, ornamental evergreens, and flowers
- Spreader sticker helps to improve the effectiveness of insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides by providing more uniform coverage along with increasing adhesion and penetration.
- Easy to apply — product instantly mixes with water and should be applied using either a hose-end sprayer or tank sprayer. Carefully read and use according to label directions.

## OUR FAVORITE FRUIT TREES

APPLE

PEACH

CHERRY

PEAR

ASIAN PEAR

APRICOT

NECTARINE

PAWPAW

FIG

PERSIMMON

ALMOND

## OUR FAVORITE FRUIT SHRUBS

BLUEBERRY

BLACKBERRY

RASPBERRY

CRANBERRY

GRAPE

GOOSEBERRY

CURRENT

# GUIDE TO GROWING FRUIT



403 GREEN VILLAGE ROAD  
GREEN VILLAGE NJ 07935  
973-377-8703

THEFARMATGREENVILLAGE.COM  
INFO@THEFARMGV.COM



## WHY GROW FRUIT AT HOME?



- Great return—able to grow large amounts of fruit in a small area, with years of productive life
- Some varieties can bring fruit to your table multiple months of the year
- Great source of vitamins, minerals, and fiber
- Your own supply of organic fruit, with full control over chemicals and pesticides
- No transportation costs being passed on when growing fruit in your own yard
- Home-grown fruits often taste better than those purchased in a grocery store
- Fruit trees filter the air, condition the soil, provide shade and shelter, and attract pollinators

## WHAT DETERMINES SUCCESS IN GROWING FRUIT?



### CHOOSING THE RIGHT PLANTS

- Choosing plants that are hardy in your area
- Dwarf cultivars bear fruit earlier than standard trees and are easier to manage in home plantings
- Learn the pollination requirements for your plant, including whether multiple cultivars are needed

### PROPER SITE SELECTION AND SOIL PREPARATION

- Choosing a site that receives adequate sun and air circulation, as well as wind protection
- Well-drained soil
- Proper soil fertility, pH, and organic matter content

### PROVIDING ADEQUATE WATER, MULCH, AND FERTILIZATION AFTER PLANTING

### PROPER TIMING AND AMOUNT OF PRUNING AND FRUIT THINNING

### PREVENTING DAMAGE resulting from disease, insects, weeds, and wildlife

- Fencing around a property must be 7' or taller to be effective against deer
- The Farm at Green Village recommends **Bonide Fruit Tree Spray** for insect and fungal disease control on fruit trees.



## PLANTING TIPS

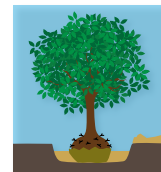
1 Dig a hole two times as wide but slightly shallower than the plant's root ball.



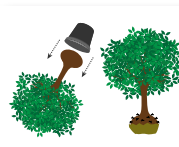
2 Mix **Bumper Crop® Organic Soil Builder** and **Espoma Bio-tone® Starter Plus Fertilizer\*** into the topsoil.



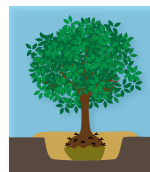
3 **Balled and burlapped plants:** Place in hole 1"-2" above soil level, and partially backfill hole to stabilize plant position. Remove all twine and string, and peel back the top third of the metal cage.



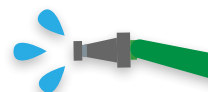
**Container plants:** Remove plastic pot, gently loosening outside roots (make shallow cuts around the root ball if compacted), and place plant in hole as described above.



4 Fill the hole, stopping partway to lightly compact the soil. The soil should be at the level of the top of the root ball. Using the rest of the soil mix, create a saucer around the edge of the hole.



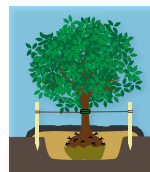
5 **WATERING REQUIREMENTS:** **Balled and burlapped plants:** 10-15 gallons once a week, applied slowly with a hose or Tree Gator watering bag



**Container-grown plants:** 2-3 gallons twice a week or more in drought conditions, applied with a watering can/hose end wand and diffuser



6 Apply 2"-3" layer of mulch around the plant, keeping the mulch away from the trunk and stems. Stake trees that might need additional support during windy conditions.



\* All plants purchased with these products on the same receipt come with a 2-year, 100% guarantee.

## PRUNING YOUR FRUIT TREE



Pruning encourages production of heavier, larger fruit, stimulates root growth, and also increases side-branching the following spring.

- Winter/late spring is the ideal time to prune fruit trees, when the tree is dormant and before new growth begins
- Prune any dead, diseased, or damaged branches
- Remove any suckers originating from the ground
- Remove low-growing branchlets, any branchlets that compete with the dominant central trunk (leader), and any branchlets that grow inward or rub against the trunk or any other branches

## SUCCESSFUL POLLINATION IS CRITICAL FOR FRUIT PRODUCTION



Fruit trees pollinate in several ways, including **self-pollination** and **cross-pollination** (requires pollination from another tree, usually the same type but a different variety). When purchasing a fruit tree, ask about the pollination requirements for the tree, and whether you need a separate pollinator.

Strawberries, raspberries, peaches, tart cherries, and grapes are self-fruitful and can set fruit with its own pollen. Blueberries are self-fruitful but will produce larger berries with cross-pollination. Apples, sweet cherries, pears, plums, apricots, and elderberries require cross-pollination from another cultivar in order to set fruit.

- Plant two or more varieties of the same tree. Even self-pollinating fruit trees will produce more fruit when cross-pollinated.

- Attract pollinators such as bees by planting both early-blooming and late-blooming varieties of flowers.

- Eliminate pesticides whenever possible, as many pesticides can harm pollinators. Consider using beneficial insects and bee-safe products to combat plant pests, rather than harmful chemicals.



- When buying trees that need a separate pollinator, make sure that the bloom time is the same for both trees.

- Consider purchasing multi-graft self-pollinating trees, where multiple compatible cross-pollinating varieties are grafted to a single tree.

- If there is low bee activity due to weather conditions (and depending on the size/number of trees), try manually pollinating your tree by dusting a branch from one tree among the branches of the second tree.