

Plant a Fruit Tree

Why we care

Fruit trees are easy to grow in our climate, only need the tiniest of spaces, and can produce 50-75 pounds of fruit per year. Trees reduce the greenhouse effect by absorbing pollutants and CO₂, cool our city by providing shade and releasing water vapor into the air, and connecting us to the changing seasons.

Simple, positive Steps

What Fruit Trees Need

- Direct sun, 6-8 hrs or more every day, all year long.
- Space: from 6' to 30' in diameter, depending on the variety.
- Another variety to cross-pollinate with.
- The best time for planting is October/November; however, not as many varieties are available as in February/March. Most trees bear fruit in 3-5 years.

Purchasing

- Choose the size that fits your space (for example: dwarf, semi-dwarf, or standard).
- Choose disease resistant varieties.
- Buy from a reputable grower that specializes in fruit trees, such as [One Green World](#) or [Raintree Nursery](#).

Planting

- Dig a hole no deeper than the potting soil in which the tree was originally grown, and three times the diameter of the root ball. Backfill with native soil.
- Mulch with several inches of sawdust or bark dust.
- Prune the top immediately to restore the normal ratio of roots to top.
- Stake dwarf trees.
- Irrigate the first three years with about 3-5 gallons of water per tree every week during the dry season.

Ongoing Care

- Fruit trees need pruning each year in late winter and late summer. Review tips from [Clemson University](#) and [Pacific NW Extension](#).

Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at jeanne@ecoschoolnetwork.org.