

THE DIRT ON DIRT

Stonepath Greenhouses Weekly Seasonal Newsletter to Keep You Informed

Spring 2020 Issue 1



WHEN TO PRUNE YOUR FRUIT TREES

Now is the best time to prune your fruit trees - before plants show signs of spring growth.

HOW TO PRUNE YOUR FRUIT TREES

Fruit trees can be pruned to either provide shade, or provide fruit. This issue goes into how to properly prune your trees for lots of fruit!



NEXT WEEK...



Learn all about how to spray your fruit trees with dormant oil - what it is, why we use it and why it's necessary for a healthy tree

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WHEN TO PRUNE YOUR FRUIT TREES

Now that spring is just around the corner and you may be thinking of the warm weather to come and how everything will turn green soon, we need to remember our fruit trees and the care they need prior to the warm weather arriving.

Pruning your Fruit Trees

Fruit trees need to be pruned regularly if you are wanting an abundance of fruit. Typically, you

prune a fruit tree one way for lots of fruit and a different way for a shade tree. We are going to talk about pruning for lots of fruit!

The best time to prune a fruit tree is in late winter or very early spring- while tree is dormant- before any new growth. Apple trees should be pruned in the winter, but can be pruned into the spring and summer if it is necessary. Avoid pruning in the fall as it stimulates new growth when the tree is trying to prepare for winter.

HOW TO PRUNE YOUR FRUIT TREES

Get the right shape for your tree. The tree should be slightly conical (cone shaped) when done. The base of the tree should be wider than the top.

Each tree will have a main trunk. From this, we have scaffold branches (next largest size branch)

A tree should have 2-6 primary scaffold branches depending on the age of the tree.

1. Once you've located the main trunk and scaffold branches, remove the rest of the branches. Keep the ones that are in a 45 – 50 degree arch from the trunk. When pruned your tree should look like spokes on a wheel when looking from the top down.
2. Remove all sucker branches. They are unwanted shoots that grow near the base of the trunk.
3. Remove any dead wood.
4. Remove any downward growing branches or branches growing straight up.
5. Remove whols. These are small branches coming from the same location on on a scaffold branch.
6. Next cut back all branches by 1/3. Not more than this.