



FRUIT TREES



Fruit trees need full sun and excellent drainage. Fruit tree varieties that grow well in our climate zone are apple, pear, plum, peach and cherry.

PRODUCTION

Allow 3-5 years for your fruit tree to begin producing a good amount of edible fruit.

PRUNING

Prune your fruit tree to keep it low, wide and open-topped. Lower, wider branches make for much easier harvesting and keeping the top open will give the tree much better access to sunlight. These guidelines also help with spraying accessibility.

When pruning, prune branches to an outside bud. This will cause the tree to branch outward rather than inward, keeping it wide.

CROSS-POLLINATION

Most apples, pears, red plums and sweet cherries require two different varieties within 50 feet of one another to produce fruit.

For example, if you planted a Honeycrisp apple, you would need another apple such as a Jonathan to cross-pollinate.

Peaches, blue plums, some apple varieties and sour/pie cherries do not require cross pollination, but they will produce higher yields with larger fruits if there is a different variety planted close by.

TEMPERATE ZONE

Zone refers to the temperatures at which plants can survive in a specific climate. This can also be referred to as a hardiness zone. Kansas City falls within the range of zone 5-6.

FERTILIZING FRUIT TREES

In early spring for conventional fertilizing, we suggest a 19-10-5 solution with added zinc. For an organic fertilizer, we suggest Chick Magic. This is pelletized chicken manure with a 5-3-2 solution and added calcium.

When spreading a granular fertilizer or manure, follow directions on the bag in regards to how much to use per square footage inside the dripline of the tree. The dripline refers to the root system radius. Do not place fertilizer directly around the trunk of the tree.

COVER SPRAYING

Cover spray during spring and early summer as small leaf buds begin to emerge. A calm day with low winds is also ideal.

We provide conventional and organic options for fruit tree sprays. These sprays cover the crop and the foliage helping to prevent and treat insects and diseases. The earlier it is applied, the more protection your fruit trees will have. Follow label instructions carefully to determine the right amount and procedure for your tree.

DORMANT SPRAYING

Dormant spraying should be completed during fall and early spring before leaf buds begin to break. A calm day with low winds and a temperature above 50 degrees is ideal.

This process is done to control any insects or diseases that have overwintered.

Use a copper spray for disease control and horticultural oil for insect control. Ask an associate about conventional & organic options. Be sure to read and follow directions carefully.

