

# Growing Fruit Trees

## Essential information:

Tree Variety	Root Stock/Type	Eventual Height (in 10yrs)	Suitable for Pots?	Spacing	Full Sun	Partial Shade	Soil Type	Best Trained as:	When to Harvest	When to Prune
Apple 'Discovery'	MM106, 2yr Bush	4.5m		2.5m	✓		A	Bush	Aug-Oct	Winter
Apple 'Fiesta'	MM106, 2yr Bush	4.5m		2.5m	✓		A	Bush	Aug-Oct	Winter
Apple 'Greensleeves'	MM106, 2yr Bush	4.0m	✓	2.5m	✓		A	Bush	Aug-Oct	Winter
Apple 'Grenadier'	MM106, 2yr Bush	4.5m		2.5m	✓		A	Bush	Aug-Oct	Winter
Cherry 'Morello'	Colt, 2yr Bush	4.5m		2.5m	✓	✓	A	Bush	Jul-Aug	Late Spring
Cherry 'Sunburst'	Colt, 2yr Bush	4.5m		2.5m	✓	✓	A	Bush	Jul-Aug	Late Spring
Nectarine 'Lord Napier'	1yr Maiden	3.5m	✓	2.5m	✓		B	Fan* / Bush	Jul-Aug	Spring
Peach 'Saturne'	1yr Maiden	3.5m	✓	2.5m	✓	✓	B	Fan* / Bush	Oct-Dec	Spring
Pear 'Conference'	Quince A, 2yr Bush	3.5m	✓	2.5m	✓		B	Bush	Aug-Sep	Winter
Pear (Duo)	Quince A, 1yr Maiden	3.5m	✓	2.5m	✓		A	Espalier* /Bush	Nov-Feb**	Winter
Plum 'Victoria'	Pixy, 2yr Bush	3.0m	✓	2.5m	✓	✓	A	Bush	Jul-Aug	Spring
Quince 'Champion'	Quince A, 2yr Bush	2.5m		2.5m				Bush		Winter

\*To plant Espalier & Fan trees, space 4m apart to allow for branch spread. Final height will depend on pruning.

\*\*Harvest from Year 3

## Planting the tree:



### Dig a hole

The hole needs to be a little bigger than the roots, so that when you put the tree in place the roots can spread out easily.



### Position the tree

Spread the roots and make sure the trunk is standing upright. It is a really good idea to drive a stake in alongside it as well, to hold it upright and stop it from leaning.

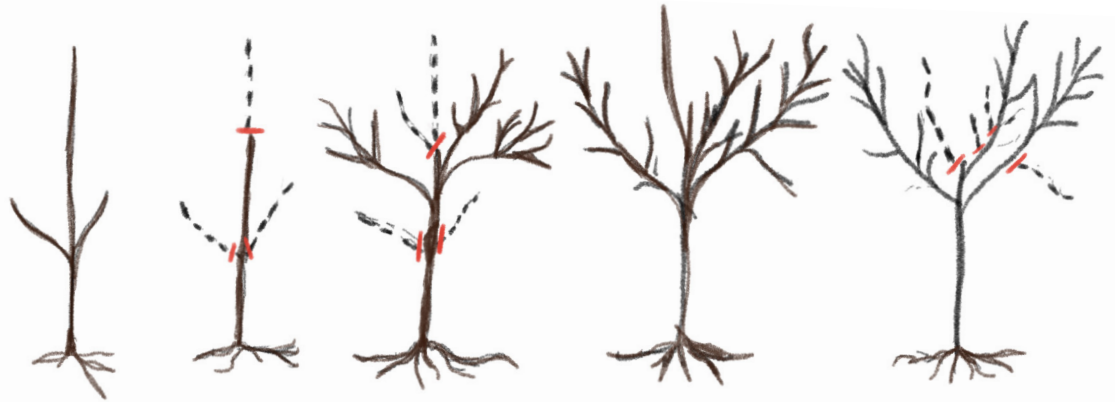


### Fill it in

Fill in with soil, adding a small amount of multipurpose compost to nourish the soil. Firm in well, and tie the trunk to the stake loosely to allow for movement, and mulch with woodchip if you can.

# Pruning & Training

## Creating a 'Bush' Tree Form



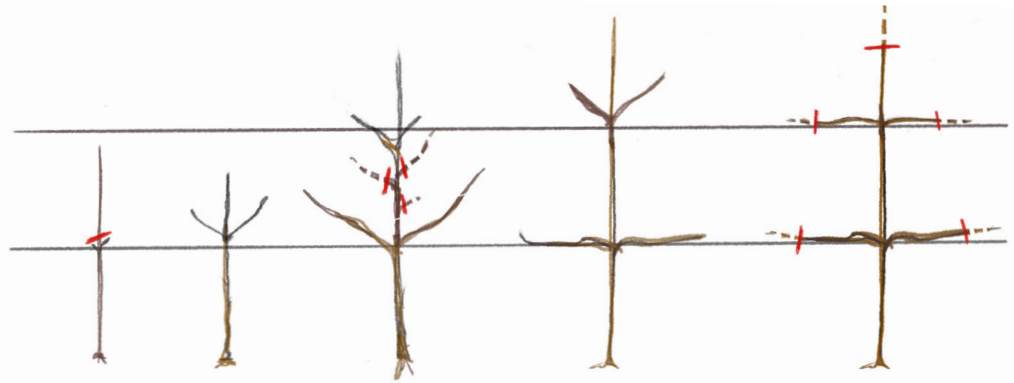
On planting a 1yr maiden, use sharp secateurs to cut the main stem - aka the leader - to approx 80cm from soil level, cutting just above a bud at an angle. Remove any side shoots.

You shouldn't need to prune a 2yr bush on planting as it has already been pruned.

Whether you have planted a 1yr maiden or 2yr bush, the following two years, cut back the leader and any very upright branches to leave 3 or 4 strong, evenly spaced branches that are growing away from each other to form a spacious canopy. Remove lower branches.

Over subsequent years, prune to remove crowded branches and thin out new shoots. The goal from now on is to maintain a spacious, open canopy. Remember to cut just above a bud that is pointing in the right direction where you are removing only part of a branch/shoot. After the third year, only light pruning should be necessary.

## Creating an 'Espalier' Tree Form

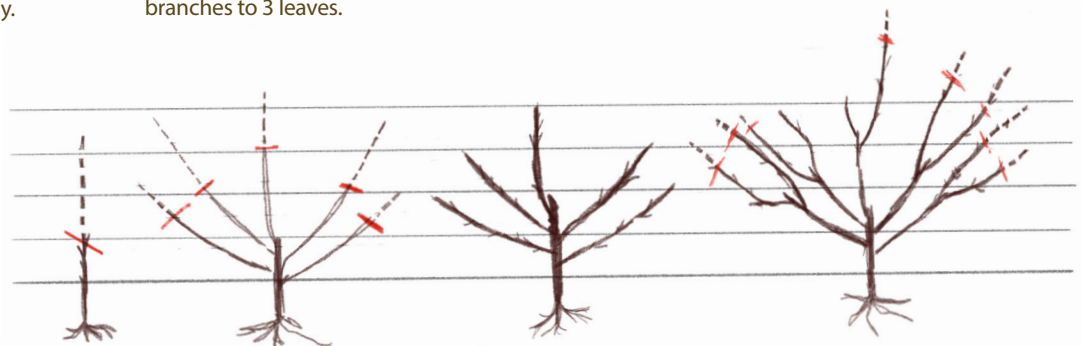


Horizontal wires need to be set at 45-50cm intervals. On planting a 1yr maiden, cut the main stem (leader) to just above the first wire, at approx 50-55cm from soil level, being sure to cut just above a bud (which will become your leader or the upright trunk). It will be easiest to stake the leader with a bamboo cane so that you can train it vertically.

As the tree grows, train the leader upright by tying into the bamboo cane, and allow the lower buds to form branches. Leave the branches to grow at a 45 degree angle, and then in late summer, after they stop growing, gently pull the strongest two branches to the horizontal wire and tie in. Prune remaining branches to 3 leaves.

Repeat this over the next couple of years, to create subsequent tiers. Once established and you have branches growing along each level, you will need to prune annually, at the end of each summer, to maintain the shape and continue training branches along the horizontals.

## Creating a 'Fan' Tree Form



Plant a 1 year maiden 25cm in front of a south facing wall/trellis. Horizontal wires need to be set at 45-50cm intervals. When planting, position the tree so that some of the lower buds are facing as if to grow along the fence/wall. When planting, in February/March, cut back to just above the first 3-4 buds, at approx 45cm tall/just above the first horizontal wire.

In the summer, choose two sideshoots on either side and tie to the supports at a 45 degree angle. Tie the vertical leader upright.

The following year, in February/March, cut these main branches back to approximately 30cm, cutting just above a bud. Keep the fan shape in mind and tie branches and new growth in accordingly over the summer.

Over subsequent years, continue to train the tree into a fan shape, pruning back in February/March, and tying in over the summer months. Always aim to cut just above a bud that is facing in the right direction to extend the fan shape, and prune out any unwanted growth that is heading the wrong way or overcrowding.