



**Aylett Nurseries**  
*The Complete Garden Centre*

# Fruit Trees

**Information Leaflet No. 24**



North Orbital Road (A414)  
St. Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL2 1DH

Tel: 01727 822255

Fax: 01727 823024

E-mail: [info@aylettnurseries.co.uk](mailto:info@aylettnurseries.co.uk)

Web: [www.aylettnurseries.co.uk](http://www.aylettnurseries.co.uk)



*At Aylett Nurseries we have a large and varied stock of fruit that will produce rewarding yields and be decorative in the kitchen garden or in the ornamental border.*

**Whilst we make every effort to keep this catalogue up to date, from time to time it may vary from the stock we carry. Please ask for help in our information office, as plant names can be confusing. Staff from our plant area are available to help with your selection.**

## **PLANTING**

Fruit trees will succeed in most garden soils that are not excessively acid or alkaline and are best in full sun and sheltered from cold winds. Planting can be undertaken throughout the year providing the ground is not frozen, waterlogged or under drought conditions. Remove top spit (i.e. 1 spades depth) over an area approx. 2 - 3 times the diameter of the pot. Mix with Tree and Shrub planting compost and add two handfuls of Bonemeal.

Fork over the second spit removing large rocks, lumps of clay, etc. If the soil is poor, mix in compost or well-rotted manure making sure that this does not come into contact with plant roots.

Test container in the hole bringing the soil level up to ensure correct planting depth. The top of the container should be at the same level as the surrounding soil. Remove container from the hole and carefully take off pot, keeping rootball intact. Now plant, filling in with soil from top spit, firming it with the heel. Before planting make sure the container is thoroughly watered if dry, especially in summer. After planting water well (drench) with 2 cans (4 gallons) of water, as needed. Water 3 or 4 times a week in hot weather.

When planting in grass do not allow grass, or weeds, to grow over the root area (i.e. within 50cm) for at least 5 years. Where the soil is poor or well drained, mulch over the surface to a depth of 5cm with well-rotted compost or bark chippings.

Staking is necessary for half-standard trees. Place the stake at a depth of 45 - 60cm securely into the ground and use a tree tie to secure the tree to the stake, also protect from rabbits and deer. Apples on M27 rootstock will need a permanent stake. Cordons and Espaliers can be trained on wire as a screen, or against a wall. Fan trained fruit trees are best grown against a wall.

# APPLES

## **POLLINATION:**

See list of varieties below.

Apples will require cross pollination between different varieties to ensure good fruit set. We have listed the varieties in accordance with the Royal Horticultural Society pollination table. Each variety has a group number that refers to the flowering period. There are 7 - 10 days between each group; therefore varieties should be of the same group, or an adjacent group.

For example Group 3 will cross with Group 2 or 4, but Groups 2 and 4 will not cross with each other. Some varieties do not produce pollen; these are Triploids and require groups of 3 trees to ensure pollination.

Apples can be pollinated by some Crab Apples (*Malus*), e.g. John Downie or Golden Hornet. Apples will not pollinate Pears.

Rootstock -	MM - Merton Malling.
Half Standard -	On MM106 stock. Semi vigorous. Plant at a minimum distance of 5m and stake well for the first 3 - 4 years. Stem height approx. 1.2 -1.5m.
Bush -	On MM106 stock. Plant at a minimum of 3.5 – 4.0m apart and stake well for first 1 -2 years. Height 4 - 4.5m. Average yield 40 - 50kg. Full crop after 7 - 8 years.  On M26 dwarf stock. Plant at 3 - 4m minimum distance apart and stake well. Average yield 30 - 34kg. Full crop after 5 - 6 years.  On M9/M27 very dwarf stock. Ideal for small gardens and patio containers. Requires good soil. Stake permanently. Plant at a minimum distance of 1.2 - 2m apart. Height 1.5m. Average yield 6 - 11kg. Full crop after 4 - 5 years. Some branches may need support when fruiting.
Espalier -	On MM106 stock. Plant against a south, west or east facing wall or fence, or as a boundary mark between parts of the garden. Fix on wire 45cm apart. Usually obtainable with 2 or 3 tiers, more can be formed as the tree matures. Plant at 3.5 - 4m apart. Height 2m or desired height. Average yield 12 - 25kg.
Family Trees -	Ideal for small gardens or where space is limited to 1 tree. Apple and Pear only.
Cordons/Duo Cordons -	Ideal for bordering plots or against walls/fences. May be planted upright or at an angle and trained on wires.
Step Overs -	Low growing. May be used as boundary mark.

## VARIETIES:

BLLENHEIM ORANGE - Finest dual purpose fruit. Crisp flesh, red flush to skin. Ripens November - January. Triploid pollination group 3.

BOUNTIFUL - Cooker. Pale green/striped orange/red. Sweet flavour. Pick October store to January. Pollination group 3.

BRAEBURN – Crisp flavour dessert, medium size red fruits. Pick Late October – Store until February. Pollination group 3.

BRAMLEY SEEDLING - Excellent cooker. Large, pale yellow flushed fruit. Good flavour. Ripens November - March. Triploid pollination group 3.

BRAMLEY 20 – Cooker. Pale yellow flesh, excellent flavour. Ripens November. Stores to March. Triploid pollination group 3.

CHARLES ROSS - Dual purpose fruit. Sweet, pale yellow flesh. Ripens October - December. Pollination group 3. Scab resistant.

CHRISTMAS PIPPIN – New dessert variety. An improved Cox type apple with better disease resistance. Harvest October. Self-fertile. Pollination Group 3.

COX' ORANGE PIPPIN (Self-fertile) – Finest flavoured dessert apple. Yellow juicy flesh. Use October/ June. Pollination Group 3.

DISCOVERY - Dessert. Medium sized, crisp and juicy, red fruit. Regular cropper. Ripens August - September. Pollination group 3. Scab resistant.

EGREMONT RUSSET - Dessert. Good 'nutty' flavour. Firm fruit. Crops well. Pick early October. Ripens October - December. Pollination group 2.

ELLISONS ORANGE – Dessert apple related to Cox Orange Pippin, with juicier flesh. Ripens September – October. Pollination Group 4. Scab resistant.

GREENSLEEVES (Self-fertile) - Dessert. Crisp, juicy, pale yellow fruit. Heavy cropper. Ripens September - November. Pollination group 3.

HEREFORDSHIRE RUSSET – Modern Russet variety. Good aromatic flavour. Pick mid October. Stores for up to 2 months. Pollination group 3.

HOWGATE WONDER - Cooker. Large, red striped fruit. Good flavour. Heavy cropper. Ripens November - March. Pollination group 3.

JAMES GRIEVE - Dessert. Pale yellow fruit with red flush. Excellent flavour. Ripens September - October. Pollination group 3.

KIDDS ORANGE RED – Dessert. Sweet firm orange /red flushed fruit. Ripens October. Pollination group 3. Stores until January.

LAXTONS SUPERB – Dessert apple. Orange/red flesh. Sweet, firm and crunchy. Pick October. Store until January. Pollination group 4.

LORD LAMBOURNE - Dessert. Sweet, juicy fruit. Heavy cropper. Pick October. Ripens October - November. Pollination group 2. Scab resistant.

RED DEVIL - Dessert. Good quality red fruit with excellent flavour. Ripens September, stores until January. Pollination group 3. Scab resistant.

RED FALSTAFF – Heavy fruiting variety. Good flavour, crisp and juicy. Pick October will store till March. Frost resistant and self-fertile. Pollination group 3.

RED WINDSOR – Superb Cox type flavour and heavy crops. Hardy and compact habit ideal garden variety. Pick September store until October. Self-fertile. Pollination group 2.

SCRUMPTIOUS – Disease resistant variety. Crisp with a rich sweet flavour. Ripens in September. Self-fertile. Pollination group 3.

SUNSET - Dessert. Excellent flavour, yellow juicy flesh. Golden finished and striped with red. Pick late September store until December. Pollination group 3.

TICKLED PINK – Dual purpose apple use for eating fresh, cooking or sourcing deep red fruit, flesh and juice. Pick October. Pollination group 3.

WORCESTER PEARMAIN - Dessert. Medium sized well-flavoured fruit. Prolific cropper. Ripens September - October. Pollination group 3.

### **PESTS AND DISEASES:**

Aphids (Greenfly) - Infest buds and shoots. Can damage young fruit. Spray in spring and summer with an insecticide.

Apple Sawfly - Caterpillar tunnels into fruit, infected fruit drops in June. Caterpillars will over-winter in the soil. A good surface raking in spring is beneficial. Spray with insecticide after petal fall. Pick and destroy infected fruit.

Canker - Shows as sunken cankers on the shoots which causes die back on the branches. Cut out badly affected branches and paint ends with canker paint.

Capsid Bugs - Feed on the buds, leaves and young fruit, causing distortion on fruit and leaves. Spray with insecticide before and after flowering.

Codling Moth - Larvae burrow into the core of the fruit. Apply grease band in July, remove trapped moths in winter. Spray after petal fall with insecticide. Repeat 3 weeks later. Or use Codling moth traps from early May.

Powdery Mildew - This fungus over-winters in the buds, so leaves are infected as they open in spring, covered with a white powdery deposit. Remove and burn affected shoots. Spray SB plant invigorator and repeat as necessary.

Scab - Shows as brown or blackish scabs on fruit, which may crack. Also shows as small blisters on shoots. Leaves discolour and fall prematurely. Remove badly affected shoots. No chemical control available. See list for resistant varieties.

Winter Moth - Caterpillars feed on opening buds and if abundant can cause a lot of damage. Apply grease bands to trunks in October to trap wingless females. Spray with insecticide at bud burst.

Woolly Aphid - Infests branches covering them with white waxy wool. Treat as Aphids.

## **PEARS**

Pears generally flower early, so are more likely to be affected by late spring frosts. Avoid frost pockets and cold eastern aspect. Pears succeed on good fertile soil in a sunny site, but not shallow chalk soil

### **POLLINATION:**

Cross pollination is necessary to produce good crops of quality fruit. Conference will produce some fruits on its own but crops better with a pollinator. Choose varieties in the same or adjacent group.

Rootstock - Our pears are budded on Quince A (average height 4-5m) or Quince C (average height 3-4m).

Half Standard - Plant a minimum of 4m apart. Height 4 - 5m. Average yield on established plant 25kg.

Bush - Plant a minimum of 3.5 - 4.5m apart. Height 2.5m. Average yield on established plant 20kg.

Cordons - Plant 60 - 90cm apart in rows. Tip pointing north, scion uppermost. Plant 1.5m apart at an angle of 45 degrees. Support as for apples. Average yield 2.5 - 4.4kg.

Espalier - Plant 4m apart. Support on wires as for apples. Usually obtainable with 2 -3 tiers, more tiers can be trained as plant matures. Average yield 12 - 25kg.

### **VARIETIES:**

BETH - Dessert. Sweet juicy white flesh, yellow skin, rounded shape. Ripens August - September. Pollination group 3.

CONCORDE - Dessert. A conference/comice cross with excellent flavour. Stores well. Ripens November. Pollination group 4.

CONFERENCE - Dessert. Sweet firm flesh. Long thin fruit. Ripens October - November. Pollination group 4.

DOYENNE DU COMICE - Dessert. Green / yellow fruit, white juicy flesh. Ripens October - November. Pollination group 4.

INVINCIBLE – Dessert / cooker. Heavy crops of good quality fruit. Ripens September. Pollination group 2.

ONWARD - Dessert. Juicy sweet creamy white flesh. Excellent flavour. Heavy cropper. Good soil, sunny open site. Pollination group 4.

SENSATION – Dessert. Large red-skinned fruit. Creamy-white sweet juicy flesh. Ripens August. Good soil, sunny open site. Pollination group 3.

WILLIAMS BON CHRETIEN - Dessert. Large oval fruit, gold with red flush. Strong musky flavour. Ripens September. Pollination group 3.

## **PESTS AND DISEASES:**

Aphids - Treat as for apples.

European Pear Rust - this is a fungal disease which is very widespread. It causes bright orange spots on the upper surface of the leaf, with brownish growths underneath. Junipers are needed for part of the life cycle of the fungus. No chemical treatment is available to the home gardener.

Pear Blister Mites - Brown pustules in the leaves. If not severe, hand pick infested leaves and burn.

Scab - Blackish scabs on fruit, if severe, cankering will occur. Produces olive green blotches on leaves and affected shoots become blistered and scabby. Cut out and burn affected shoots and leaves.

## **PLUMS, DAMSONS & GAGES**

Plums will succeed in a wide range of soils but prefer a deep moisture-retentive soil, which is slightly alkaline. Plums are early flowering and should not be planted in areas subject to late spring frosts. Gages generally fruit less than plums. Damsons will grow in less favourable conditions.

### **PLANTING:**

Plums thrive in soil of high summer moisture, and high in nitrogen. Add plenty of well-rotted manure or compost dug in before planting. They should be mulched with the same after planting and thereafter annually.

### **POLLINATION:**

Some varieties are self-fertile, but those which are not will need a pollinator. Flowering groups are listed and should be in the same or adjacent group.

### **PRUNING:**

Best pruned in late August or early September to avoid Silver Leaf Disease. **DO NOT PRUNE IN WINTER.**

Rootstock -	Plums are mainly on St Julien A, semi vigorous stock. Some varieties are on Pixy or Krymsk (VVA-1) dwarf stock.
Half Standard -	Plant 4.5m apart. Will make trees of 6m, and fruit in 4 - 5 years. Stake well for 3 - 4 years. Average yield 13 - 27kg.
Bush -	Plant 3 - 4m apart. Will make trees of 4 - 5m, and fruit in 4 - 5 years. Average yield 13 - 18kg.
Dwarf Bush -	On Krymsk (VVA-1) - Plant 3m apart. Will make trees of 2-2.5m, and fruit in 3 - 4 years. Average yield 9 - 12kg
Fan -	Plant 5m apart on a sunny wall or fence, and train on wires at 15cm apart. Height 3 - 4m. Average yield 7- 12kg.

## **PLUM AND GAGE VARIETIES:**

CAMBRIDGE GAGE – Dessert. Greengage like yellowish green fruit, juicy and reliable. Ripens late August. Self-fertile. Pollination group 4.

CZAR - Cooker. Dark purple fruit, yellow juicy flesh, good acid flavour. Ripens August. Self-fertile. Pollination group 3.

GUINEVERE – Dessert. Large purple fruit, heavy cropper. Harvest September. Self-fertile, Pollination group 3.

JUBILEE – Dessert. Large purple fruits. Firm and sweet. Ripens early September. Pollination group 3. Height 4-5m.

MARJORIE'S SEEDLING - Cooker. Purple blue fruit, juicy flesh. Ripens September - October. Self-fertile. Pollination group 5.

OPAL - Dessert. Reddish purple fruit, very juicy. Ripens July - August. Pollination group 3.

OULLINS GOLDEN GAGE - Cooker & dessert. Large golden yellow fruits, harvest August. Self-fertile. Pollination group 4.

RIVERS EARLY PROLIFIC - Cooker & Dessert. Small blue/purple fruits. Prolific crops, pick early July for cooking, early August for eating. Partly self-fertile. Pollination group 2.

VICTORIA - Dessert. Pale red, mottled fruit, juicy yellow flesh. Ripens September. Self-fertile. Pollination group 3.

WILLINGHAM GAGE - Dessert. Good crops of sweet fruits. Excellent quality. Self-fertile. Pollination group 3.

## **DAMSON VARIETIES:**

MERRYWEATHER - Small dark oval fruit. Used in cooking and preserving. Very prolific. Ripens September. Self-fertile. Pollination group 3.

SHROPSHIRE PRUNE - Large dark blue fruit. Used in stewing and jamming. Self-fertile. Pollination group 3.

## **PESTS AND DISEASES:**

Aphids - Infest young shoots and undersides of old leaves. Spray with general insecticide in spring and summer.

Bacterial Canker - Shows along the branches as flattened canker which exudes gum. Affected branches should be removed and burnt and cuts painted with Arbrex Seal and Heal immediately after pruning. This should be done in July or August.

Birds - Bullfinches will attack over-wintering fruit buds. Cover with netting where possible.

Brown Rot - Attacks fruit. Diseased fruit should be removed and burnt.



Silver Leaf - Leaves show silvery discoloration. All diseased branches should be cut out and burnt, and ends painted with Arbrex Seal and Heal immediately after pruning. This should be done in July or August.

## **CHERRIES**

Cherries need a deep rich, well-drained soil for best results. Plant on an open sunny site. Fan trained bushes are best on a sunny wall. Morello cherries are suitable for a north wall. Mulch in spring to retain soil moisture.

### **POLLINATION:**

All cherries require suitable pollinators other than those which are self-fertile.

Half Standard - On Colt rootstock. Plant a minimum of 6m apart. Height 6m. Stake well for 2 - 3 years.

Bush - On Colt rootstock. Plant a minimum of 4m apart. Height 4 - 4.5m.  
On GIE5 Rootstock - Dwarf Bush Plant 2.5-3m. Height 2.25m.

Fan - On Colt rootstock. Plant a minimum of 5m apart. Height 3 - 4m.  
Support on wires as for peaches.

### **VARIETIES:**

CELESTE – Red dessert cherry. Excellent flavour. Ripe mid-July. Self-fertile.

LAPINS – Black eating cherry. Sweet & Juicy, good flavour. Ripe late July - August. Self-fertile.  
Pollination group 3.

MORELLO - Cooker. Deep red fruit, bitter sweet flavour. Good for preserves etc. Suitable for a north wall. Self-fertile. Ripens August - September. Pollination group 5.

STELLA - Dessert. Dark red, sweet and juicy fruit. Prolific cropper. Ripens late July.  
Self-fertile. Pollination group 4.

SUNBURST - Dessert. Large black fruit. Very heavy cropper. Ripens mid-season. Self-fertile.  
Pollination group 5.

SUMMER SUN – Eater. Large black fruit, sweet and juicy. Superb flavour. Ripens late July. Self-fertile. Pollination group 3.

SWEETHEART – Dessert. Dark red fruit, good flavour. Ripens early September. Good cropper.  
Self-fertile.

### **PESTS AND DISEASES:**

Aphids - Infest young shoots causing distortion and checking growth. Spray with insecticide in spring and as needed.

Bacterial Canker - Treat as for Plums.

Birds - Especially Starlings will eat ripe fruit and Bullfinches will feed on over-wintering buds. Protect with netting if possible.

Silver Leaf - Treat as for Plums.

## **PEACHES, NECTARINES & APRICOTS**

Will grow on a wide range of soils, best results are obtained if soil is slightly alkaline with adequate drainage. Plant in full sun, best on a sunny wall. Protect flowers from spring frosts and cold winds.

### **POLLINATION:**

All varieties are self-fertile. Fruit setting is improved by hand pollinating with a soft brush. All are suitable for growing under glass.

Rootstock - Peaches are usually on St Julien rootstock.

Bush - Plant 4 - 5m apart. Height 3 - 4m. Average yield 10kg.

Fan - Plant 4 - 5m apart. Minimum height of wall or fence 2m. Plant 15 - 20cm from wall. Train on wires at 15cm intervals. Average yield 10kg.

Dwarf - Ideal for tubs on the patio. Best over-wintered in cool glasshouse/ conservatory. Krymsk 88 rootstock.

### **PEACH VARIETIES:**

AVALON PRIDE – Pink flowers, large juicy fruits in August. Resistant to Peach Leaf Curl.

PEREGRINE - Greenish white fruit, juicy flesh. Ripens mid-August.

ROCHESTER - Yellow fruit, red flush, firm juicy flesh. Crops well. Ripens August.

### **NECTARINE VARIETIES:**

LORD NAPIER – Pink blossom spring. Burgundy red fruit. Sweet, juicy white flesh. Ripens August.

NECTARELLA - Large sweet juicy fruit. Smooth red skin, red flesh. Good flavour. Self-fertile. Ripens mid-season.

### **APRICOT VARIETIES:**

GOLDEN GLOW - A medium sized fruit golden yellow, self-fertile.

MOORPARK - Orange fruit. Cooker or dessert. Self-fertile. Ripens August - September.

## **MULBERRY**

MORUS NIGRA - Slow growing, spreading tree. Ultimate height 8 - 9m. Black or dark red raspberry like fruit, sweetish but tart flavour on older trees. Best in open sunny site, on good well drained soil. Ripens August - September.

## **SPACE SAVING FRUIT**

### **FAMILY, CORDON, DUO CORDEN TREES - APPLES & PEARS**

Ideal where space is limited, these are self-pollinating with three varieties per tree. Cultivation is the same as for other fruit trees.

Pruning in the first year consists of shortening leading shoots by about half. Cut just above an outward facing bud. In subsequent years, prune as for normal varieties.

Pruning should be undertaken between November and February.

## **FIGS**

Will grow in a wide range of soils providing this is well drained. They must have their roots restricted to prevent the tree becoming over large and vigorous at the expense of fruitfulness. Either plant in a container or by making a 'box' in the soil lined with bricks or paving slabs 45 - 60 cm square, depth 30 - 45 cm. Line the bottom with crushed brick or mortar to a depth of about 20cm.

Planting - In a sunny sheltered site, or against a south facing wall. As a bush, stake well. For training against a wall, set wires at 30 cm spacing up to 2 metres high and up to 4 metres wide. Top dress and feed each year and keep well-watered during growing season.

### **FRUITING:**

They produce two crops, but only one is edible. These fruits develop at the apex of the previous summer's shoots, and are carried over the winter as embryo fruits the size of peas, which then develop and ripen in August/September. The second crop is produced on the current season's growth, but our summers are not long enough for these to ripen. At the end of the summer pick off any fruit that is larger than 1cm, leaving the smallest embryo fruits for next year's crop. When the fruit is ripe it is very soft and hangs downwards and will split easily.

### **PRUNING:**

Needed to form framework in first three years, then little is required except to remove badly placed branches and some old fruiting wood. Tie in new branches to replace. Figs are generally free from pests and diseases.

## **FIG VARIETIES:**

**BROWN TURKEY** - Red fleshed, rich and sweet. Large oval fruit. Ripens August/October. Suitable for pot cultivation.

**ICE CRYSTAL** – Deeply divided leaves appear in shape of ice crystals. Small sweet fruits. Restrict roots for fruiting. Suitable for pot cultivation.

**DALAMITIE** – Large green skinned fig with deeply cut leaves. Best on sunny wall or glasshouse.

**ROUGE DE BORDEAUX** – Blue purple skin with strawberry red flesh. Good flavour. Best on warm sunny wall or glasshouse.

## **MEDLAR (MESPIUS GERMANICA)**

Will grow on a wide range of soils provided this is well drained. Needs a sunny sheltered site to protect leaves and flowers. Grafted on Quince rootstock and will grow to 5 metres. Plant minimum 5 metres apart. Long lived attractive tree suitable for the ornamental garden.

### **PRUNING:**

In winter, for three to four years, cut back leaders of the main framework by one third of the summer growth. Prune to outward facing bud. Hard prune any crossing or badly placed shoots to three or four buds. Once main framework is established, prune to shape, cutting out overcrowded growth and dead wood. Mulch and top dress in spring - use Growmore at 3oz per square metre.

### **FRUITING:**

Flower in May/June, pinkish white fruit ripens late October/November when they pick easily. Pick when dry and dip stalks in strong salt solution to inhibit rotting. Store in cool dry place, stalk uppermost, not touching each other, for two or three weeks until flesh softens and turns brown.

### **PEST AND DISEASE:**

Generally trouble free but can be attacked by leaf eating caterpillars. Spray as seen.

## **QUINCE**

Best on a deep, light, fertile and moisture retentive soil even tolerating some water-logging. Needs open but sheltered site and can be grown as a bush or a fan. It establishes into an attractive tree with large white to light pink flowers in spring.

### **PLANTING:**

Plant 3 to 4 metres apart. Prune to obtain goblet shaped tree, open in the centre. Winter prune for first three to four years by cutting back leaders by half of the previous summer's growth and trim back to three or four buds other shoots that are competing with the leaders. Leave other side shoots un-pruned to fill in framework. After the fourth year little is needed, just prune overcrowded shoots and any suckers that come from the base. Fruit is borne on spurs on the tips of the previous summer's growth, therefore, only prune to keep head tidy.

## **HARVESTING:**

Leave fruit until ripe - middle October - pick and store in apple boxes in a dark place for about one month. Store by themselves as their aroma will affect any other fruit stored nearby.

## **PEST AND DISEASES:**

Similar to those of apples - see apple section.

## **QUINCE VARIETIES:**

MEECHES PROLIFIC – Large pear-shaped pale-yellow fruit with good flavour.  
Ripens October. Self-fertile.

SERBIAN GOLD – Single pink flowers late spring. Large pear-shaped gold aromatic fruit ripens October. Self-fertile.

VRANJA - Pink blossom July/August, Golden fruit in October. Aromatic flavour, good for jelly. Self-fertile.

## **NUTS (HAZELS)**

Will grow on most soils, but likes good drainage. Yellow catkins in spring, plant in groups to ensure pollination. Nuts ripen in autumn, best crops obtained from planting in a sunny position, sheltered from strong winds. Keep ground clean between the trees. Fork over ground in autumn and hoe regularly in spring and summer. Top dress with Growmore in January at 4oz to square metre, or on poor soil top dress with well-rotted manure in autumn.

## **PRUNING:**

Best grown in bush form with open cup shape. Prune in late February during the latter part of the flowering period - this will help to spread the pollen. For the first four or five years cut back leaders by half to an outward bud. Keep the tree to about two metres. Un-pruned the tree will grow to 3.5 metres. Cut back vigorous laterals to three or four buds. Twist and pull off any suckers at base.

## **PESTS AND DISEASES:**

Generally, trouble free but prone to Nut Weevil. Squirrels can be troublesome.

## **NUT VARIETIES:**

COSFORD - Sweet-flavoured nut. A fast-growing bush and excellent as a pollinator.

HALLS GIANT - Very large attractive nut. Excellent quality. Best in sheltered well-drained site.

KENTISH COB - Large long nuts. Good flavour.

WALLNUTS - *Juglans regia*. On mature trees, edible nuts form in Aug/Sept. Grow as a specimen tree on any well drained soil in full sun. Ultimate height 10m, spread 8m.

## A GENERAL GUIDE TO PRUNING FRUIT TREES

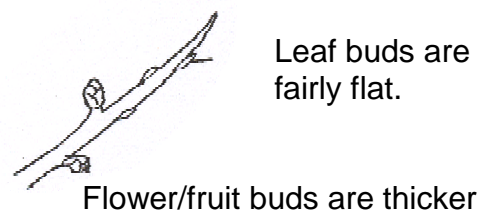
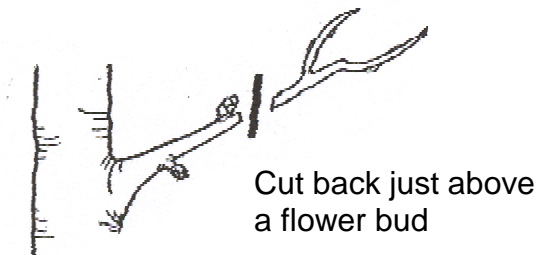
Listed below are some general points that should be remembered when pruning your fruit trees in order to get the most out of them.

1. It is necessary in the early formative years to encourage the tree to grow into a good shape with a strong branch system that is capable of bearing fruit in the later years.
2. During the cropping years pruning is necessary to maintain a balance between vegetative growth and fruit.

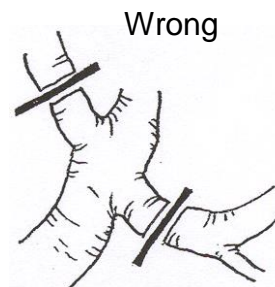
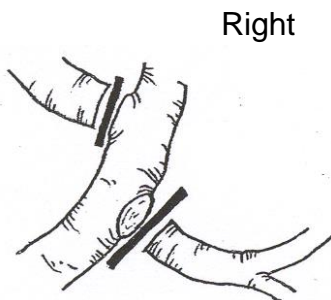
It is important to remove unwanted wood i.e. dead, diseased or damaged. Suckers should also be cut off. To ensure all parts of the tree have adequate light and air movement (to prevent the build-up of disease) crossing branches and branches growing towards the centre have to be removed.

When pruning is carried out several points should be remembered.

1. Hard pruning on healthy trees encourages vegetative growth.
2. Light pruning encourages fruiting.
3. Upright growth is stronger than lateral and is less likely to produce fruit buds.
4. To encourage the formation of fruit buds, horizontal growth is of primary importance when pruning the tree.
5. Buds exposed to light and air are stronger and healthier.
6. Wide angled branches are stronger than narrow ones.
7. Winter pruning for apples and pears should take place between November and February when the buds are dormant. Plums and cherries are pruned in mid-summer. Cuts could be painted with Arbrex Seal and Heal. The cut should be a clean cut and angled just above the bud.



8. When whole branches need removing (for example when renovating old neglected trees), stubs should not be left, as healing may be impaired giving a chance for disease to enter.



9. When pruning a general rule is that 1/3 is retained and 2/3 is lost. On strong growth 1/2 may be retained so as not to encourage more vigorous growth.
10. On Plums and Cherries, paint all large wounds immediately after pruning with Arbrex Seal and Heal. On Apples and Pears wounds are best left open.

## **TOOLS REQUIRED FOR PRUNING:**

1. A sharp pair of secateurs - these are essential for making clean cuts, and useful for detailed work as well.
2. Long arm pruners - for the larger pieces of wood
3. Pruning saw - the teeth are specially arranged to cut with a pulling action.
4. Pruning knife - useful for detailed work and for cleaning up wounds made by pruning.
5. Pruning compound - to paint over wounds to aid healing.

Books are available from our bookshop on pruning of Fruit trees; of particular use is the R.H.S Encyclopaedia of Practical gardening.

We also have a fruit growers handbook, available free from the plant information office, which gives more detailed advice on pruning.

**This leaflet is available in  
alternative formats.**

Please ask a member of staff or  
Tel: 01727 822255

Email: [info@aylettnurseries.co.uk](mailto:info@aylettnurseries.co.uk)

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