

## Fruit Tree Care

Bellevue Nursery offers fruit tree varieties that do well in our NW climate. Here are some tips for successful growing (and eating!).



### **PLANTING:**

Plant in full sun with good air circulation and drainage, approximately 18- 20 feet apart. Since most fruit trees are grafted, make sure the graft is 2-3" above the soil level. Provide adequate water and organic fruit tree fertilizer to ensure good health and resistance to disease and infestation

### **POLLINATION:**

Most fruit trees need another variety which flowers at approximately the same time, enabling cross-pollination to take place. If space is limited, consider a multi-variety/combo tree which has several varieties grafted onto the same tree. Some varieties of fruit trees are self-pollinating but still depend on the presence of pollinators. Consider putting up orchard mason bee boxes to provide shelter for another species of bees that work gardens early and can assist in the pollination process.

### **DISEASE:**

Our moist climate often encourages the development of fruit tree diseases; ie fungal and bacterial infection. In this case, PREVENTION really is the best cure!

- Keep your garden clean. Remove and destroy diseased plant parts.
- Keep tools disinfected with a bleach solution.
- Apply fungicide prior to and during infection.

### **INSECTS:**

- Remove and destroy infested plant parts.
- Use an insecticide only when necessary –do not use routinely. Over use promotes insecticide-resistant insects and kills many beneficial insects.
- Apply a dormant oil spray\* in winter- it may be the only spray you'll need.
- Encourage natural predators.
- Never apply insecticides when trees are in bloom or when plants growing under trees are in flower. BEES are necessary for pollination!

\*When using sprays, follow directions carefully ~ timing is critical.

### **PRUNING:**

During January or February, remove any branches that have been damaged or are diseased, and any that are crossing over. Shorten the leader by one-third and the side shoots to between 2 and 6 buds - depending on variety. Branch thinning can be done during the summer months. Prune to encourage the tree to form a vase shape.

## Fruit Tree Care — Products

Dormant spraying is the best insurance for healthy blossom set and a good fruit crop. Timing is critical! (See spray schedule)

PRODUCT	WHAT IT DOES
<p>Bonide All Seasons Spray Oil</p> <p>Master Nursery Pest Fighter Year-Round Spray Oil</p>	<p><b>Dormant sprays</b> (horticultural oils) are applied to bare limbs and trunks of deciduous trees. They protect against disease, fungi and insects that attack plants during winter /early spring. The oil smothers &amp; kills scale, mites, aphids, codling moth pupae and other insects &amp; eggs. Can also be used year round.</p> <p><i>Do not apply to walnut trees</i></p>
<p>Bonide Lime Sulfur Spray (Calcium Polysulfide)</p>	<p><b>Lime Sulfur</b> controls scale, mites, borer, peach leaf curl, leaf spot, shothole, powdery mildew, rust. Can be mixed with spray oil and applied during warmer temperatures (above 40 degrees F).</p> <p><i>Do not apply to apricot trees or evergreen as it may burn the foliage. May also stain buildings.</i></p>
<p>Bonide Fung-onil (Chlorothalonil)</p>	<p>Multi purpose liquid <b>fungicide</b> that controls leaf spot, rust, blights, mildew, scab, etc. on trees, lawns, fruits, vegetables, ornamentals.</p>
<p>Bonide Liquid Copper (Copper Compounds)</p>	<p><b>Copper</b> is a general purpose fungicide and bactericide recommended for some plants instead of sulfur; eg. Apricots, dogwood, cherries, lilacs, Japanese Maples. Most often used to prevent <u>peach leaf curl</u>, brown rot blossom blights, shothole, bacterial canker.</p> <p><i>Do not mix with spray oils. Use a spreader sticker for best results.</i></p>
<p>Bonide Fruit Tree Spray (Captan)</p>	<p>Complete concentrate containing insecticide, fungicide, and spreader sticker.</p>