



Winter Fruit Pruning

Apples, Pears, Quince, Medlar, Vines, Currants and Blueberries

Why do we prune?

We prune to get larger healthier fruits and achieve the desired shape with our trees or bushes.

In order to do this here are 10 top tips that you should bear in mind when pruning.

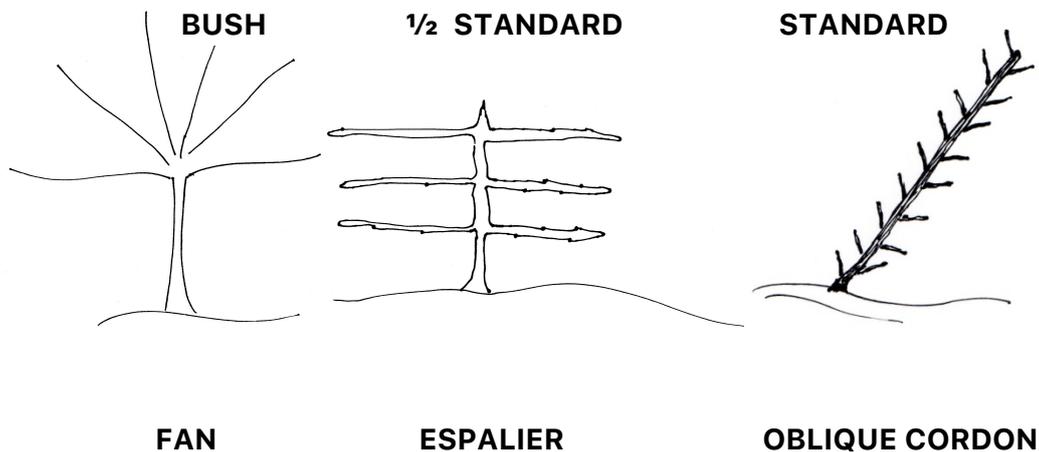
Ten top tips

1. Remove dead, diseased and damaged wood (the 3 Ds).
2. When removing whole branches be sure to cut just above the collar and neatly pare down jagged edges with a sharp knife.
3. Prune out congested wood to allow air and sunlight into all areas of the tree. This will reduce the risk of disease and increase the sun's ability to ripen the fruit.
4. Cut just above a healthy bud. Your cut should be sloping away from the bud.
5. Ensure all your pruning tools are sharp and clean.
6. Once the 3 Ds have been removed shape or train to achieve the effect you want.
7. Fat buds, generally on spurs, produce flowers and fruit. Smaller leaner buds tend to be growing shoots.
8. Thin weak shoots should be removed and thick strong shoots should be pruned back by 1/3rd.
9. Prune too hard and you will get lots of growing shoots (water shoots) the next year as the tree tries to recover. Don't prune enough and you will lose the shape of the tree/ bush and get a lower quality of fruit.
10. Don't be afraid – it's not difficult.

Useful pruning tools/aids

1. A good quality pair of secateurs (Felco are the best).
2. A sharp pruning saw.
3. A quality pair of loppers.
4. A ball of garden twine.
5. Stakes, bamboo canes and tree ties.
6. Tent pegs or equivalent.
7. Vine eyes.
8. Training wire.
9. A wheelbarrow.

Some classic shapes for apples and pears



BUSH

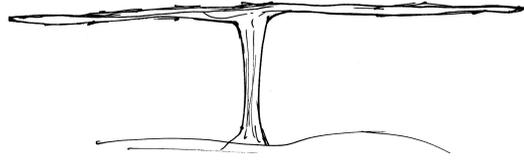
1/2 STANDARD

STANDARD

FAN

ESPALIER

OBLIQUE CORDON



STEP OVER