

University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners  
**The Backyard Orchard**  
 Fruit Cultivation Guide

Fruit/Varieties	Plant	Water	Fertilize	Prune	Harvest	Problems
<b>Strawberries</b> (Short day: 'Chandler'; Day neutral: 'Fern')	Bareroot and 6 packs in fall to early spring.	Consistent moisture while bearing.	Balanced organic fertilizer while bearing.	Snip off runners for larger berries.	When fully colored, pinch through stem.	Replace plants after 3 years In new bed to avoid disease. Mulch to keep fruit off the ground.
<b>Blueberries</b> (Low chill: 'O'Neal', 'Misty', 'Sunshine Blue')	From early fall to early spring from 5 gallon containers, spacing 6' to 10'. Acid soil needed. Plant in containers if soil is alkaline.	Need consistent moisture.	3 – 4 times a year starting in spring every two months with complete organic fertilizer.	In winter remove 1/3 of the oldest branches. Avoid cutting back shoots as most of the buds are near the ends.	Pick when fruit tastes sweet.	Use bird netting to keep birds from eating fruit.
<b>Boysenberries</b> ('Boysen', 'Olallie')	From late December to early January from 1 to 5 gallon containers 8' apart.	Regular moisture throughout the growing season.	In late fall/early winter with a complete organic fertilizer.	Trane canes on trellis. Prune after the harvest, removing all canes that bore fruit that year. To promote larger fruit, head back canes in late Nov.	Pick when fruit is full size, dark in color and sweet.	Use bird netting to keep birds from eating fruit.
<b>Raspberries</b> ('Bababerry')	In spring or fall from 1 to 5 gallon containers spaced 4' to 6' apart.	Consistent moisture at all times.	Late fall/early winter with a complete organic fertilizer.	Remove canes at ground level after they bear a crop. Shorten remaining canes to 6'.	Pull off fruit when it separates easily from the plant.	Spray with lime sulfur during dormancy and again as leaf buds begin to open to control fungal disease and some insects.

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<b>Grapes</b> (European: 'Flame', 'Perlette': American: 'Concord')	Bareroot in Jan or Feb. Cut off all canes except the most vigorous one, prune it to two buds.	Water established plants deeply every 2 – 3 weeks.	In January or February, organic balanced fertilizer.	See diagrams following.	When fruit is in full color and sweet.	Control powdery mildew by dusting with sulfur.
<b>Avocados</b> (Type A flower: 'Haas'; Type B flower: 'Fuerte')	On sloping ground in early autumn or spring (need perfect drainage). Plant both A and B type for best fruit production.	Keep evenly moist. Let mulch of leaves build up.	Twice a year in spring and summer with a complete organic fertilizer.	Prune only to shape and control height.	Does not ripen on tree. Begin picking per harvest time for variety.	Susceptible to <i>Phytophthora</i> root rot. Add mulch and gypsum to help suppress. Control chlorosis with iron and zinc chelates.
<b>Lemons</b> ('Improved Meyer', 'Eureka', 'Lisbon')	In spring from 5 to 15 gallon containers spaced 15' to 20' apart.	Deep soaking: Young trees 1X per week, older trees 2X per mo.	2X year in late winter/early summer with citrus/avocado organic fertilizer (high nitrogen).	If left alone, trees become tall, rangy and less productive. Prune in early spring.	Fruit ripens only on the tree, judge by taste. Does not need high heat to ripen.	More frost sensitive than other citrus. Control snails and ants. Treat chlorosis with chelated iron and zinc. Citrus leaf miner attacks new foliage, control with pheromone traps.
<b>Limes</b> ('Bearss', 'Mexican' also known as Key Lime)	In spring from 5 to 15 gallon containers spaced 10' to 15' apart.	Deep soaking: Young trees 1X per week, older trees 2X per mo.	2X year in late winter/early summer with citrus/avocado organic fertilizer (high nitrogen).	Prune to shape and to remove dead wood in early spring.	When green to yellow, but do not hold well on tree once they are yellow.	More frost sensitive than other citrus. Control snails and ants. Treat chlorosis with chelated iron and zinc. Citrus leaf miner attacks new foliage, control with pheromone traps.

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<b>Oranges</b> (‘Valencia’, ‘Washington’ navel, ‘Cara Cara’ navel – pink flesh)	In spring from 5 to 15 gallon containers spaced 10’ to 15’ apart. Plant a ‘Washington Navel’ and a ‘Valencia’ to have fresh oranges 10 months a year.	Deep soaking: Young trees 1X per week, older trees 2X per mo.	2X year in late winter/early summer with citrus/avocado organic fertilizer (high nitrogen).	Prune for shape in early spring and to remove dead wood as needed. Remove all suckers.	Fruit ripens only on the tree, judge by taste.	Sensitive to frost. Control snails and ants. Treat chlorosis with chelated iron and zinc. Citrus leaf miner attacks new foliage, control with pheromone traps.
<b>Grapefruit</b> (‘Oroblanco’, ‘Melogold’)	In spring from 5 to 15 gallon containers spaced 15’ to 20’ apart.	Deep soaking: Young trees 1X per week, older trees 2X per mo.	2X year in late winter/early summer with citrus/avocado organic fertilizer (high nitrogen).	Prune for shape in early spring and to remove dead wood as needed. Remove all suckers.	Fruit ripens only on the tree, judge by taste, up to 18 mos. to ripen.	Control giant whitefly and mites with Neem oil.
<b>Apples</b> (less than 300 chill hours and self fruitful: ‘Anna’, ‘Gordon’)	Bareroot-late winter/early spring; Containers-anytime (avoid hot days). Choose low chill variety.	Regular deep soakings when top 3-4” of soil dry out.	Balanced organic fertilizer at bud break in spring. Spread over entire root zone.	Prune to remove suckers, water spouts, crossing branches; thin to keep canopy open. Thin fruit to every 6”.	When fully colored and pull off easily with a twist.	Few are self pollinating so plant 2 varieties for a good harvest.
<b>Pears</b> (low chill European: ‘Moonglow’, Asian: ‘Shinko’)	Bareroot-late winter/early spring; Containers-anytime (avoid hot days). Choose low chill variety.	Regular deep soakings when top 3-4” of soil dry out.	Balanced organic fertilizer in winter. Spread over entire root zone.	Prune to remove dead, injured, crossing branches; thin to keep canopy open. Thin fruit to space every 6” along branch.	European varieties-when green, ripen inside. Asian varieties-by taste, ripen on the tree.	Few are self pollinating so plant 2 varieties for a good harvest.
<b>Pomegranates</b> (‘Wonderful’, ‘Eversweet’)	Fall thru spring in frost free areas, spring in colder areas.	Deep soak 2X a month when young. Drought tolerant when mature.	Young plants in spring. Mature plants not at all.	Prune to shape.	Fruit ripens in fall. Harvest when colored up but before it splits.	No significant pests.

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<b>Apricots</b> (less than 300 chill hours and self fruitful: 'Goldkist', 'Katy')	Bareroot-late winter/early spring; Containers-anytime (avoid hot days). Choose low chill variety.	Regular deep soakings when top 3-4" of soil dry out.	Low nitrogen organic fertilizer once in early spring. Spread over entire root zone.	Older branches should be headed back so that one-fifth of the bearing wood will be replaced. Thin fruit to 2" to 4" spacing on branch.	When fully colored and slightly softened.	Apply fixed copper (do not use sulfur) dormant spray in winter to control scale, aphid and mite eggs, and peach twig borer.
<b>Peaches/Nectarines</b> (low chill peach: 'Babcock', nectarine: 'Panamint')	Bareroot-late winter/early spring; Containers-anytime (avoid hot days). Choose low chill variety.	Regular deep soakings when top 3-4" of soil dry out.	Balanced organic fertilizer at bud break in late March. Spread over entire root zone.	Severe annual pruning renews fruiting wood and encourages production throughout. Thin fruit to space every 4" along branch.	When fully colored and pull off easily with a twist.	Peach Leaf Curl – Apply fixed copper or sulfur dormant sprays after autumn leaf drop and again as buds swell.
<b>Plums</b> (less than 300 chill hours and self fruitful: 'Santa Rosa')	Bareroot-late winter/early spring; Containers-anytime (avoid hot days). European varieties more chill, Japanese varieties less chill.	Regular deep soakings when top 3-4" of soil dry out.	Balanced organic fertilizer before leaf out in early spring. Spread over entire root zone.	Japanese varieties need severe pruning to control vigorous shoot growth. European varieties need little pruning.	When fully colored and slightly softened.	Apply dormant sprays combining horticultural oil with fixed copper or sulfur in winter to control fungal diseases and various insect pests.

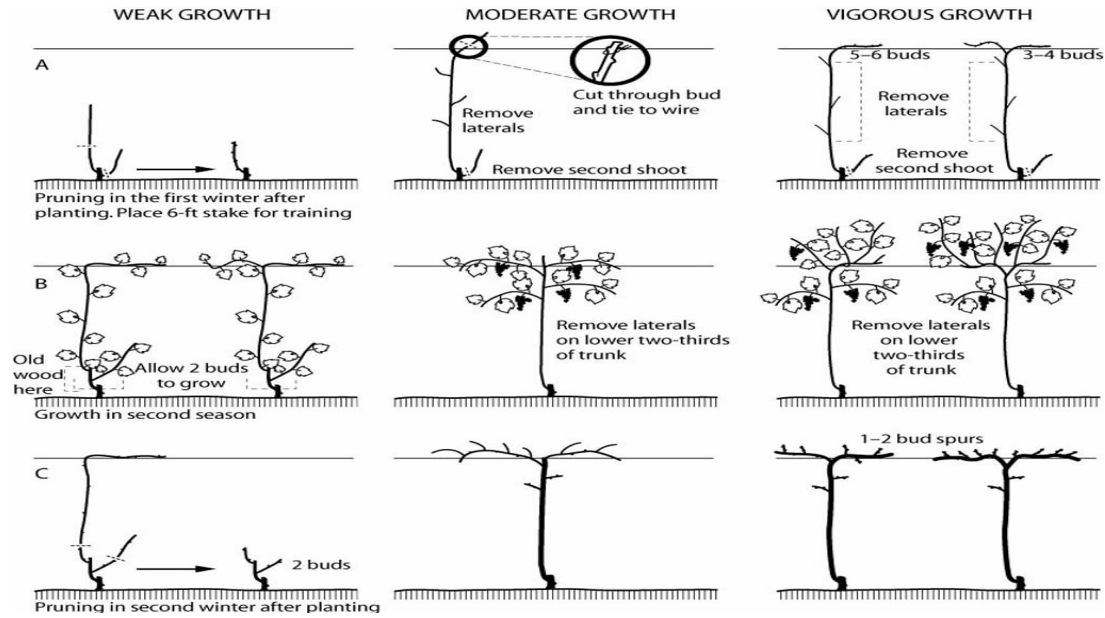


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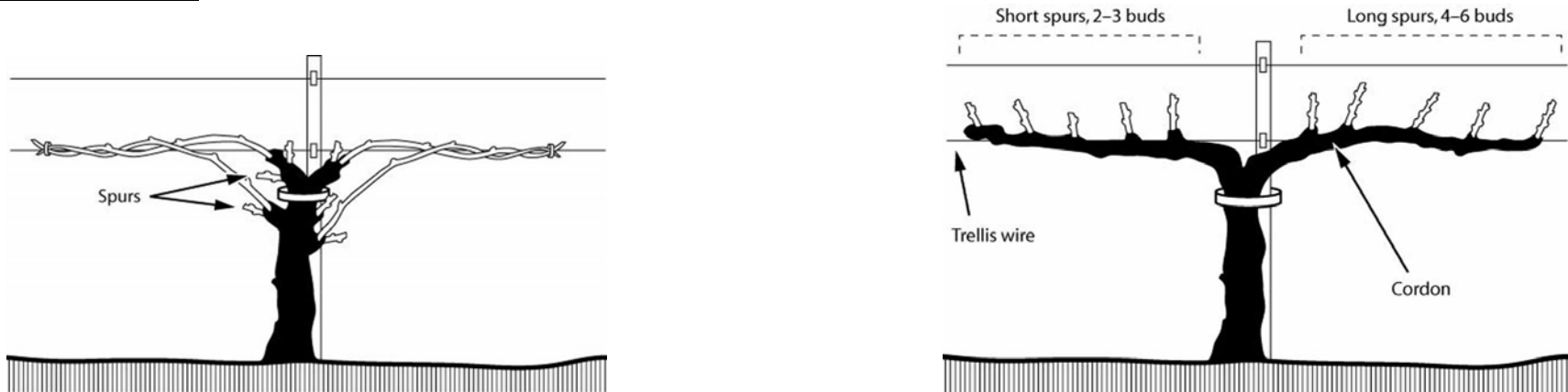
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# GRAPE PRUNING

## FIRST TWO YEARS:



## YEARS 3 AND BEYOND:



Cane pruning – Thompson Seedless, Concord varieties

Spur pruning – most grape varieties

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**Resource List**

**Books:**

The Home Orchard, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, Publication 3485, 2007

California Master Gardener Handbook, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, Publication 3382, 2004

Sunset Western Garden Book of Edibles, Sunset Publishing Corporation, 2010

Bruce and Sharon Asakawa's California Gardening Guide, Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, Cool Springs Press, 2000

**Nurseries:**

Armstrong Garden Centers

Batavia Garden Nursery  
1730 North Batavia Street  
Orange, CA 92865 (714) 637-2360

Green Thumb International  
23782 Bridger Rd.  
El Toro, CA 92630 (949) 837-3040

Rogers Gardens  
2301 San Joaquin Hills Road  
Corona Dell Mar, CA 92625 (949) 640-5800

Plant Depot  
33413 San Juan Creek Road  
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 (949) 240-2107

**Websites:**

[ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://ipm.ucdavis.edu)

University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program  
Contains detailed information by plant on pests and diseases and their control, as well as cultivation information.

[www.davewilson.com](http://www.davewilson.com)

Dave Wilson Nursery, a wholesale grower, website contains a home gardener section with how to videos, detailed information on plant varieties including photos, and a list of nurseries that stock their plants and what they ordered from Dave Wilson.