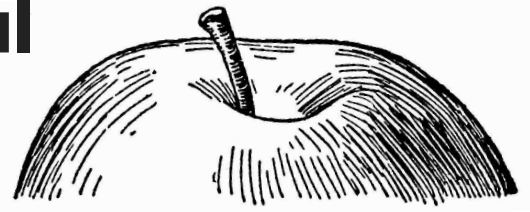


Guide for Planting Perennial Fruit Trees & Plants



Instructions After Pickup

IMMEDIATE CARE: When you pick up your plants and trees, they are starting their spring growth and need to be planted as soon as possible. The longer they remain unplanted, the more stressed they become and the longer their recovery will take.

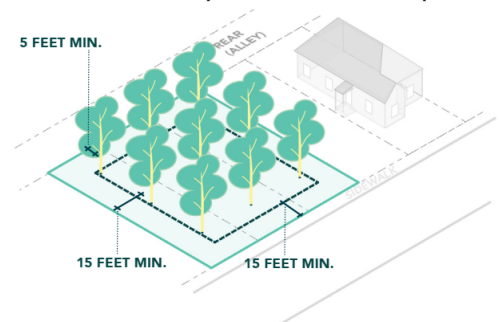
TRANSPORTING PLANTS: These plants are bare root and require special care to avoid roots drying out. When transporting trees be sure to keep roots moistened and covered. Do not drive with branches hanging out the window to avoid damage.

CARE UNTIL YOU PLANT: DO NOT ALLOW ROOTS TO DRY OUT AT ALL!!!

- **If you are able to plant within 48 Hours:** Leave the plastic wrapping around the root ball. Add some water to re-moisten the packing material and store your trees/plants in a cool shaded place like a shed, garage or cellar. Avoid heat and sunlight.
 - **If You Cannot Plant Within 48 Hours:** You may keep plants for up to a week by following one of two temporary measures and continuing to water trees as they need it. Remove the plastic wrap around the roots. Store plants in a cool shaded place. Wrap the roots in wet shredded newspaper or sawdust. Water thoroughly and check daily.
- OR**
- "Heel in" your plants. Dig a trench or turn back an appropriate amount of soil and bury the roots; tamp firmly to remove air pockets. Water thoroughly.

Planting Instructions

CHOOSING A SITE FOR FRUIT TREES AND BERRIES: The best sites for fruit crops have well-drained fertile soils, protection from wind, good air flow and full sun. Eight or more hours of full sun per day is ideal. Good air flow will moderate frosts and fungal disease. Set back fruit trees at least 15 feet (measured from the tree trunk to property line) from developed adjacent lots and 5 feet from a vacant property line or alley.



POLLINATION: Please note apple and pear trees require a second tree of another variety to be planted no more than 30 feet away for proper pollination. If trees do not get enough pollination fruit set will be poor. These varieties of peach and berries are self-fertile which means they do not have special pollination needs. Refer to below for specific spacing recommendations.

GENERAL PLANTING DIRECTIONS FOR TREES AND BERRIES

- For best results, plant on cool cloudy days in the early morning or late afternoon to avoid the intense afternoon sun.
- Keep roots in a bucket of water or in moistened shredded paper as you plant to avoid drying out.
- Dig a large hole at least twice as wide and about as deep as the root system. Most roots grow laterally and need plenty of room to spread out. Your trees will benefit if the hole is at least 3 feet wide.
- Loosen up the soil at the bottom of the hole and especially around the sides.
- If possible add two to three 5-gallon buckets of compost to the topsoil and mix in before refilling the hole.

IF PLANTING FRUIT TREES: Place tree in the hole and cover the roots with topsoil. Spread the roots out as you set the trees in the holes. Make a mound at the bottom of the hole over which to spread the roots. Generally, you should plant trees and shrubs at the same depth that they grew in the nursery. You should be able to see a "dirt line" or a change in bark color indicating nursery depth. Plant fruit trees 15-20 feet apart.

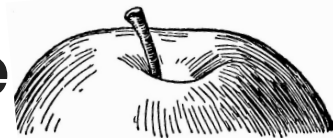
IF PLANTING BERRIES: Place plant in center of hole holding it at the level of the surrounding soil with roots below and growing point above soil surface. Follow remaining directions for fruit trees. Plant berries 3 feet apart.

WATER IN PLANTS AND TREES: Water in the plant with one to three 5-gallon buckets of water.



Keep Growing Detroit exists to promote a food sovereign city where the majority of fruits and vegetables Detroiters consume are grown by residents within the city limits. For more information please contact us at 313-656-GROW (4769), email info@keepgrowingdetroit.org or visit www.detroitagriculture.net

Perennial Fruit Planting and Care



Planting Trees

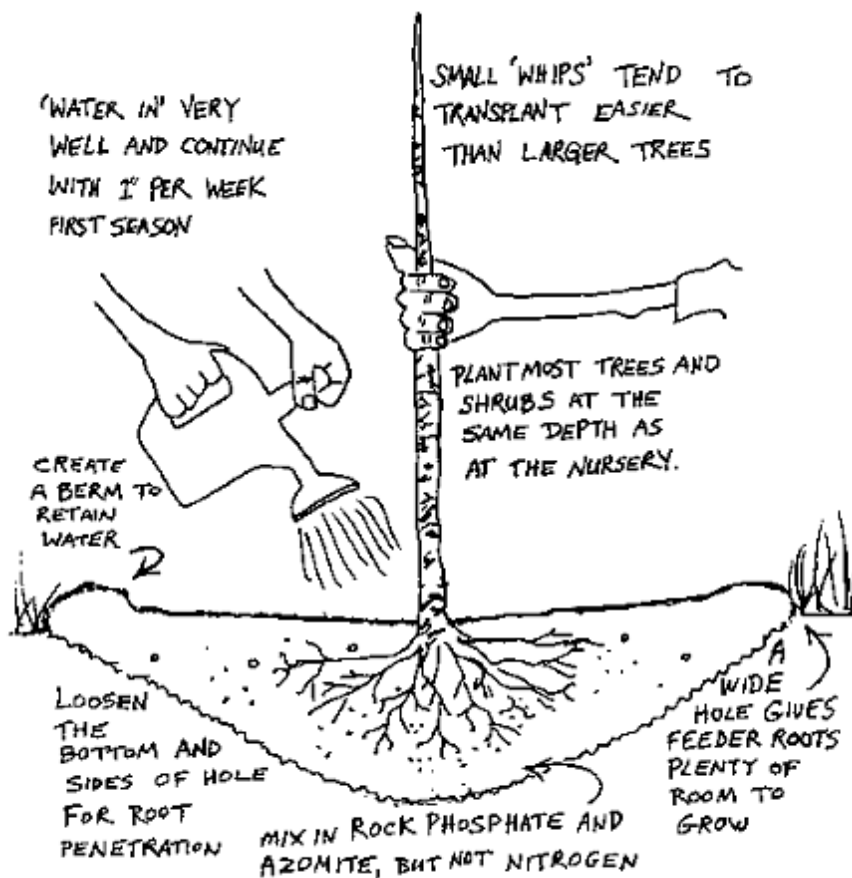
Ongoing Care

FERTILITY

All plants you are receiving will benefit from the addition of fertilizer each season. There are many organic options but simply adding a 5-gallon bucket of compost once a season is a good start. Spread compost or fertilizer around the root zone on top of the soil. For more fertilizer suggestions refer to the Fedco Trees catalog (fedcoseeds.com) or ask one of us at Keep Growing Detroit.

WATERING

All plants you are receiving require a thorough watering once a week during the growing season (April - October) for the first 2-3 years.



artwork: fedcotrees.com

Fruit Trees - Pawpaw

PLANTING: Pawpaws seem to adapt to any soil type. Pawpaws are often found growing near water sources, which tells us that they appreciate wet, rich, and loamy soils with lots of organic matter. Pawpaw trees have very extensive root systems that grow both wide and deep into the soil, which makes them difficult to dig and transplant. Ideally, these trees are planted as small seedlings to minimize damage to the roots during transplanting. To plant, dig a hole approximately 12 inches wide and 6 inches deep - or as deep as the container the seedling was grown in. Plant spacing should be 8 feet between seedlings and 10 feet between rows as mature trees will be 8-10 feet wide and 15 feet tall. Place the seedling in the hole, fill with soil and water thoroughly. The seedling should sit slightly lower than the top of the hole. Plant two varieties or a combination of seedlings and varieties to insure cross-pollination.

PRUNING AND CARE: Pawpaw trees require adequate soil moisture, especially in the first two years after planting. Transplant shock may be reduced by providing temporary partial shade to newly planted trees. Application of a balanced fertilizer (20N-20P-20K) every few weeks during the first half of the growing season may also improve growth and establishment of young trees. Trees should receive 1 ounce of fertilizer for every year of age. New plants must be protected by a tree shelter or guard to prevent wind damage. Pruning should be done in late winter or early spring, after the coldest temperatures are over but before spring break bud. Pawpaws can be pruned to a central leader like an apple, or they can be left mostly unpruned. Since pawpaws produce fruit on the tips of one year old wood, be careful not to prune off too many branch tips. Suckers should be pruned annually.

HARVESTING: Pawpaws bloom in April and fruit ripens September through October. Allow pawpaws to ripen on the tree - harvesting when the skin turns from green to light yellow. Ripe pawpaws will give off a fruity scent and will fall freely from the tree if you give the branch a light shake. Pawpaws have a limited shelf life, but may be frozen for later use. You can expect fruit 4 to 5 years after planting.

Fruit Trees – Cherry, Pear, Peach, and Apple

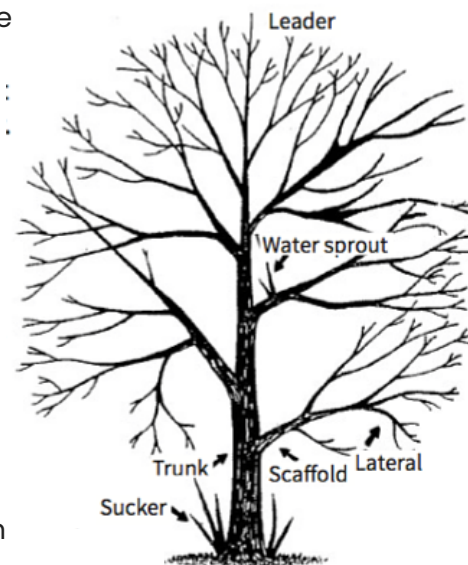
WHEN YOU PRUNE: Avoid pruning young trees except to establish a basic shape, as it delays bearing. On apple and pear trees, leave the central leader alone and let it grow. Always remove water sprouts and suckers from fruit trees. On peaches and plums, the trees may want to develop 2–4 leaders, or an open-vase shape. Always prune just above a good strong bud that faces a direction you'd like your plant to grow. If the new tree arrives with branches, prune all but 3–4 branches at the height you'd like for your first tier, usually above 3 feet.

YEAR TWO: Trim off root suckers (odd branches that come up from around the base). Otherwise, leave the tree be and let it grow.

THE NEXT FEW YEARS: If branches look really crowded, broken or dead, prune them. Otherwise, leave your tree alone and let it grow. If you don't fuss over it too much, you'll get fruit sooner! The goal of pruning is to create a strong central leader with a scaffold similar to a Christmas tree with symmetrical branches spaced one to 2 feet apart.

HARVESTING: Fruit trees will begin to produce significant amounts of fruit 4–5 years after planting.

PESTS AND DISEASES: All fruit trees are prone to pests and diseases. The first line of defense is to keep your trees healthy and happy beginning with following the directions on this sheet. Refer to books such as 'The Backyard Orchardist' and 'The Apple Grower' for tips on addressing issues organically. Keep Growing Detroit also offers a fruit tree maintenance and care class each spring.



Elderberry

PLANTING: Elderberries grow well in full- to part-sun locations. They are not fussy about soil type. Plant so roots are approximately 1–2 inches below at the surrounding soil line. Water in heavily to settle the soil and eliminate air pockets. Water often to keep moist, not wet. Keep leaves dry. Space at least 5 feet apart. Elderberries are self pollinating.

PRUNING AND CARE: Elderberries grow best when fertilized annually with compost. They have shallow roots, so mulch around the plants with hay, straw, or bark chips to control weeds that compete for water and nutrients. They can sucker freely and send up vigorous new branches each season. These one-year-old branches produce side branches (laterals) that fruit heavily in the second and third year. In late winter, prune out branches more than 3 years old since these are less productive. Try to leave equal numbers of one, two, and three year-old branches. Prune out any dead, diseased, or broken branches as well.

HARVESTING: Harvest elderberry when the fruits ripen on the shrub to a dark purple color. Prune off the entire cluster when ripe and strip the berries into a bowl. Keep fruits refrigerated after harvest and process the berries as soon as possible. You can expect yields of at least 5–10 pounds of fruit per mature (3- or 4-year-old) shrub. Uncooked berries produce a dark purple juice and are astringent and inedible, but when processed impart a sweet, earthy flavor. Freezing clusters is a convenient way to removed berries from stems.

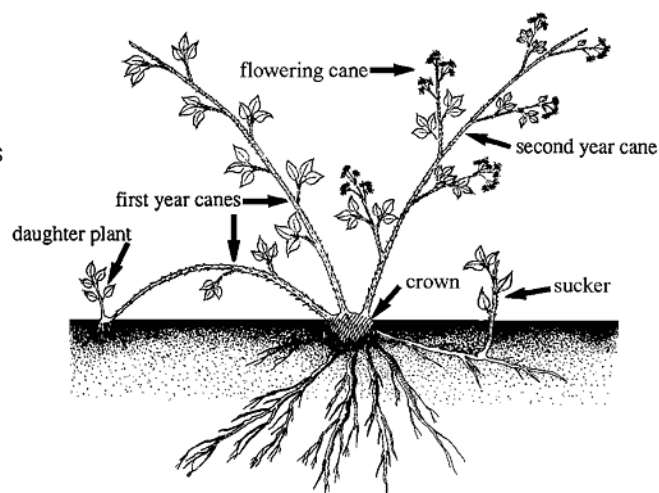
Blackberry

PLANTING: Plant roots shallowly, about 1" below the soil line. Space 2 1/2–3 feet apart. Blackberries are self pollinating.

PRUNING AND CARE: Pruning every year is necessary for good quality fruit production. In spring remove dead branches and cut main stems back to 3 feet. Blackberries tend to form thickets and are vigorously rooted. Locate the plants where you can control "volunteers".

HARVESTING: Blackberries can fruit in the first season after planting but significant harvests begin in the second season. They fruit on Summer-bearing floricanes (second year canes that are flowering). Ripens in mid June. Self-pollinating.

ANNUAL PRUNING: In Spring remove dead, diseased and dying canes often identified by splitting bark. "Head back" or cut back canes to 3–4 feet (at a bud) to make harvesting easier and to encourage side branching (which encourages more fruit set).



Grapes

PLANTING: Plant so that the lowest bud on the cane is just above the soil surface. Trim off any broken or excessively long roots. Dig a hole large enough so you can spread the root system out. Then cover the roots completely with soil. Plant 6 feet apart.

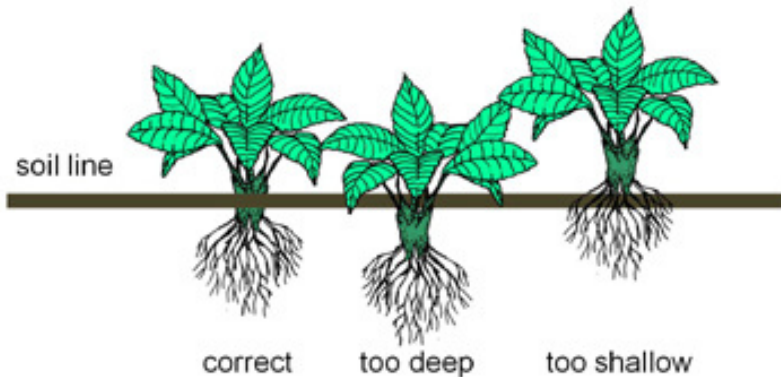
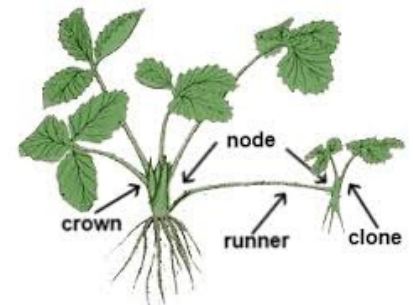
SUPPORT: Grapevines need strong support or they will trail along the ground. A post in the ground will support the trunk, vines can also be grown along an existing fence. Please note that grape vines grow heavy fast!

PRUNING & TRAINING: Grapes need a strong root system and straight trunk. Tie the cane to a stake or fence 3 to 6 feet tall. You may have to tie it multiple times during the first year to keep it straight. In following years when the vine gets to the top of the fence—remove an inch or two of terminal growth to force the vine to branch. Each season train 2-3 branches, one in each direction, by tying them to the fence in opposite directions to form permanent branches running along the top of your fence. Remove any buds that start to grow lower on the trunk. Prune the vine each spring before growth begins removing the majority of the growth from the previous season back to 3-6 feet of the main branches you initially trained. Heavy pruning produces the best fruit! Fruit is produced on the current season's growth, that in turn grows from last season's wood.

HARVESTING: The best way to tell if grapes are ripe is to taste a few. To harvest, clip full clusters off the vine with pruning shears or heavy scissors. Handle clusters carefully; remove any discolored, injured, or undesirable berries and store in a refrigerator.

Strawberries

PLANTING: Spread out bundled transplants and trim off any dead leaves and roots. Find the central crown, plant so the base of the crown rests at the soil line and the roots are spread out below. Plant 12 inches apart. Plants will put out new, fruiting vines (called runners) which will fill in most of the vacant space by late summer.



RUNNERS: In the first year pick off flowers to encourage the plant to develop a healthy root system. If you don't need more plants, removing all runners will increase the production of big, juicy berries. Runners (or clones) can be lifted and moved in late summer or first thing in spring. June-bearing strawberries produce lots of runners, so rows quickly become a tangle of plants. To capitalize on this habit, manage the plants as a ground cover. Then mow (yes mow! lawn mowers are fine) the tattered foliage down in late summer, and mulch between plants.

Raspberries

PLANTING: Plant roots shallowly, about 1" below the soil line. Space 3 feet apart.

HARVESTING: Raspberries can fruit in the first season after planting but significant harvests begin in the second season. This bush has two harvest seasons, with a moderate yield in July and heavy yield in September until frost.

PRUNING: Each spring select 5 or 6 of the most vigorous new canes (primocanes) and cut them back to 30 inches tall. All other NEW canes can be removed. Do not remove last year's fruiting canes— they will fruit again in early summer.

PESTS AND DISEASES: Brambles generally have few pest and disease issues. Similarly to trees, keeping plants healthy will help prevent pest and disease issues.

