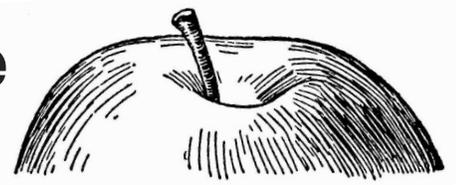


Perennial Fruit Planting and Care



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.

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. *See below for rhubarb and strawberry planting instructions.*

POLLINATION: Please note apple, pear and plum 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 cherry, peach, and berries are self-fertile which means they do not have special pollination needs. Refer to 'fruit variety' sheet for specific spacing recommendations.

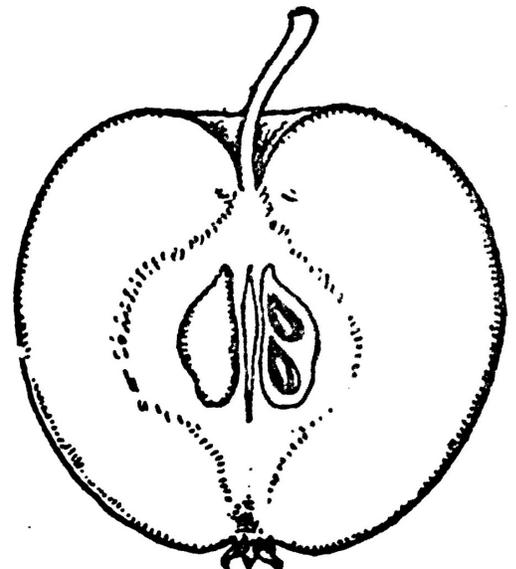
GENERAL PLANTING DIRECTIONS FOR TREES AND BERRIES

- 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 sic
- If possible add two to three 5-gallon buckets of compost to the topsoil an

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.

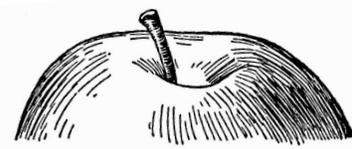
IF PLANTING BERRIES: place plant in center of hole holding it at the level of the surrounding soil with roots below and growing point above soil surface. Follow remaining directions for fruit trees. Plant berries 3 feet apart.

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

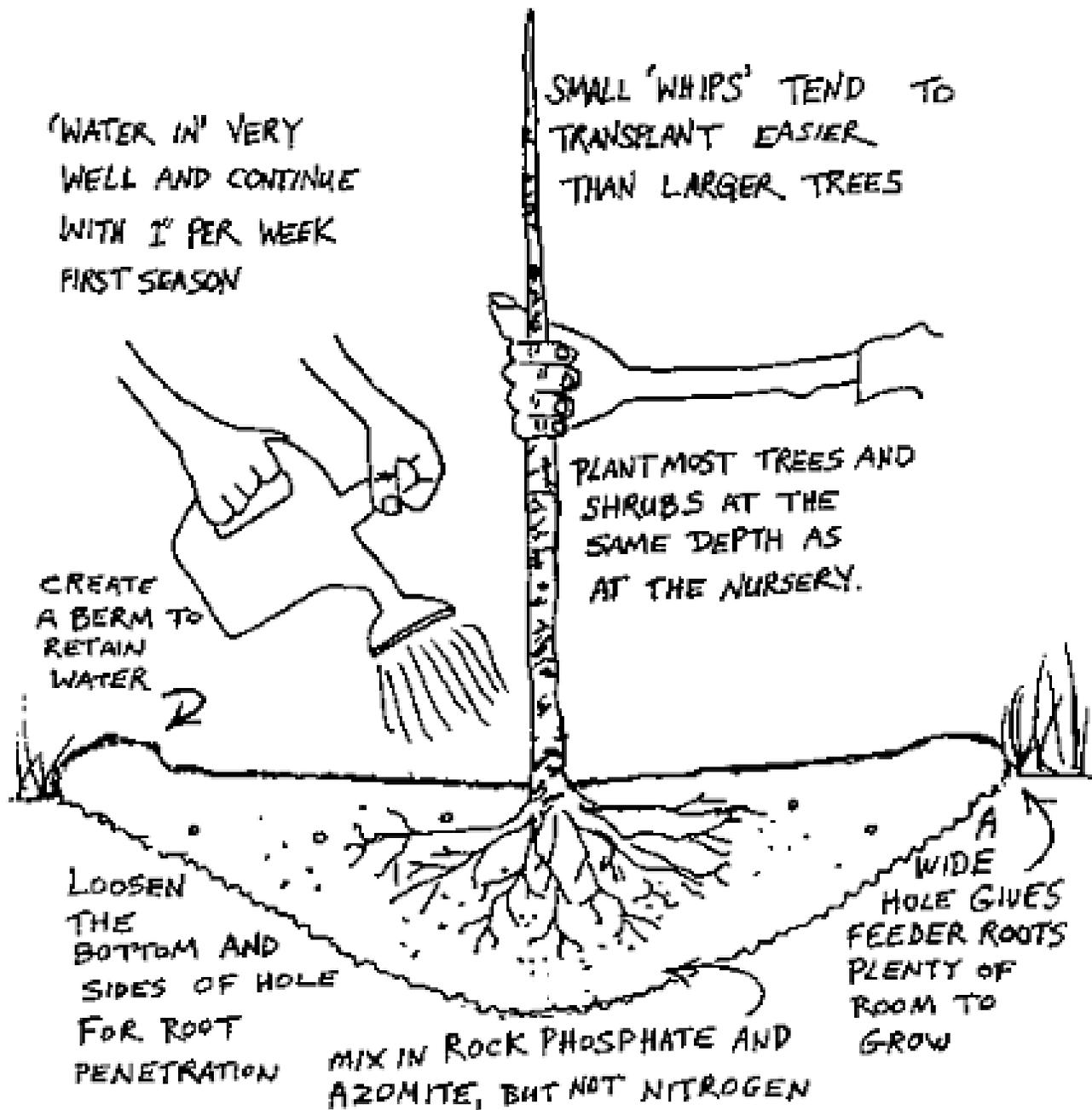


Keep Growing Detroit exists to promote a food sovereign city where the majority of fruits and vegetables Detroiters consume are grown by residents within the city limits. For more information please contact 313-757-2635, email keepgrowingdetroit@gmail.com or visit www.detroitagriculture.net

Perennial Fruit Planting and Care



Planting Trees



artwork: fedcotrees.com

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.



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Fruit Trees

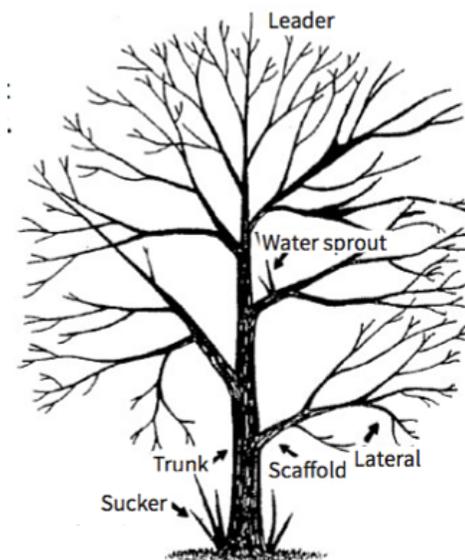
WHEN YOU PRUNE: Avoid pruning young trees except to establish a basic shape, as it delays bearing. On apple and pear trees, leave the central leader alone and let it grow. Always remove water sprouts and suckers from fruit trees. On peaches and plums, the trees may want to develop 2-4 leaders, or an 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.



Saskatoon

PLANTING: Saskatoons prefer well drained soil and full sun. 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.

PRUNING: For the first 3 years after planting, only remove dead, diseased, and dying branches and branches that droop close to the ground. About 3-6 years after planting, start pruning. Remove stems that have poor production, lie close to the ground, or are weak, too. After this, begin removing 1/4 to 1/3 of the oldest stems each year, so that the oldest stems are no older than 3 or 4 years old. The best fruit production occurs on vigorous 2-4 year old stems. Maintain an open shape for light penetration and air movement.

HARVESTING: Saskatoons typically ripen in June or July. Mature fruits are sweet and have a full fruit flavor. Harvest mature fruits when 2/3 of the berries are fully ripe into a shallow harvest container to minimize bruising.

Raspberry

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

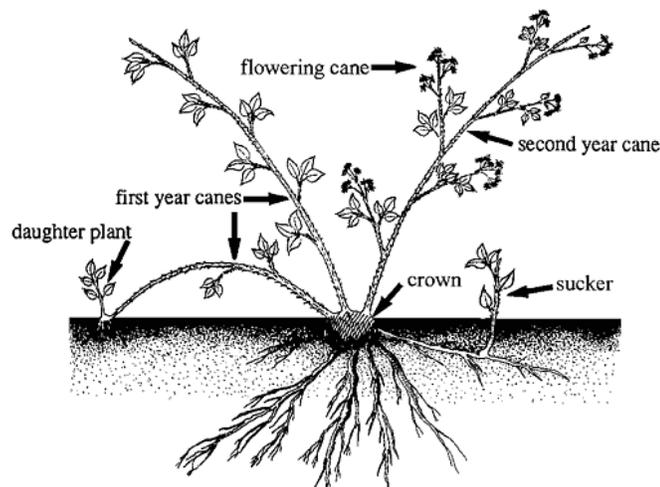
HARVESTING: Raspberries can fruit in the first season after planting but significant harvests begin in the second season.

PRUNING: Pruning every year is necessary for good quality fruit production. Remove plant waste after pruning and burn or destroy to minimize spread of diseases.

FIRST YEAR PRUNING: To have 2 crops, first-year canes (primocanes) should be left unpruned. For only a fall crop, mow all the canes down to 2-3 inches after the fall harvest during late fall or late winter.

ANNUAL PRUNING: Everbearing second-year canes (woody stems) should be removed after fruiting in the spring. Be careful not to injure the developing young first-year canes (green stems) that will bear fruit in the fall.

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



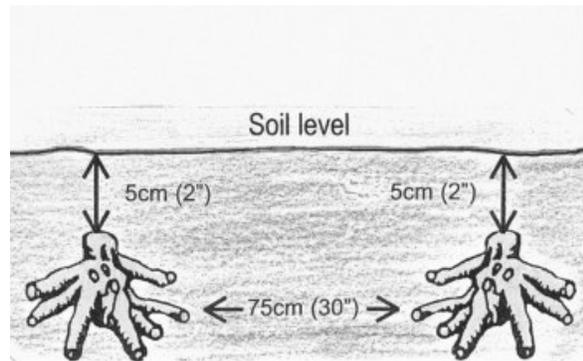
Rhubarb

PLANTING: Dig a gallon jug sized hole in the ground. Plant rhubarb crown about 2 inches below the soil surface. Add a mixture of soil and compost to back fill the hole. Space plants 4 feet apart.

EARLY MAINTENANCE: Keep plants well watered until fully established. Add mulch to control weeds.

HARVESTING: Some harvesting can begin in the second year, but wait until year 3 for a full harvest. Harvest when stalks are 12-18 inches long. Pull stalks from the soil line. Do not harvest more than half of the plant - some leaves need to remain to produce root storage the rest of the year. Harvest period is 8-10 weeks.

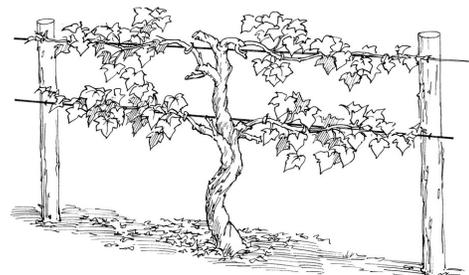
ONGOING CARE: Remove any plant debris from stems that die back after harvest. Once your ground freezes, it's best to cover rhubarb with 2 to 4 inches of mulch, preferably well-rotted compost.



Grape

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 some type of support or they will trail along the ground. Virtually any type of support structure will do, provided it is sturdy. A post in the ground will support the trunk, vines can also be grown along an existing fence. NOTE: grape vines grow quickly and get quite heavy.



PRUNING & TRAINING: Successful grapes need a strong root system and straight trunk. Tie the cane to a stake or fence you might have to tie it multiple times during the first year to keep it straight. When the vine gets to the top of the fence-this might be the year you planted, or it might be in the spring of the following year-remove an inch or two of terminal growth to force the vine to branch.

Train two 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 so the developing canes have enough air movement around them to reduce diseases. 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: Plant strawberries as early as six weeks before the last frost date (approx. May 10th). 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 18 inches apart. Plants will put out new, fruiting vines (called runners,) that 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. Removing runners will increase the production of big, juicy berries. Runners can be lifted and moved in late summer or first thing in spring. 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 midsummer, and mulch between plants.

HARVESTING: Once berries turn fully red, let your taste buds be your guide! Harvest every 3-4 days in cooler weather and every day in warm.

