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Royal Oak Farm Orchard Fruit Tree Planting Instructions

READ BEFORE PLANTING! If you read it, they will grow!

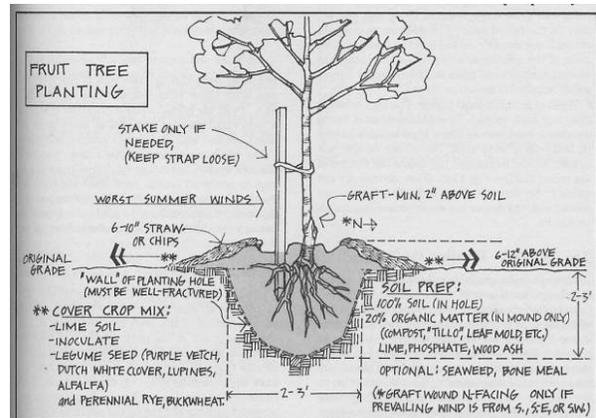


Seasonal Information. Peach trees are quite tolerant, withstanding most conditions, except wind and cold. It is recommended that bare root peach trees be planted in spring. Container trees can be planted in the spring through fall.

Location. Full sunlight and good air circulation are the most important concerns to think about when selecting your planting location. While peach trees can tolerate a wide range of soil types, they will not thrive in areas with poor drainage or high acid levels. Be sure to space your trees according to the size rootstock your tree has..

Pollination. While most of our peach trees are self-pollinating, we still recommend planting another variety in your yard for optimum fruit production. The absence of proper pollination could cause your tree to produce poorly or to fail to bear fruit, so you might want to plant at least one other variety that blooms at the same time as your peach tree nearby.

Planting Instructions. Potted Tree: Begin by digging your planting hole the same size as the container of your tree. If the tree is in a root pouch, cut the container up the side about 3" to 4" in length spaced about every 3" apart. If the roots have filled the container or are winding around, use your fingers to gently pull the roots apart a bit through the slices, or poke into the root ball with a pointed instrument and wiggle about a bit to loosen the roots and compacted soil. Be sure to leave the soil intact. If the tree is in a plastic container, cut the container bottom out and discard. Once the tree is in the planting hole, cut the container up the side and slip it completely out. **Bare Root Tree:** Set bare root trees on top of a small mound of soil in the middle of the hole. Spread the roots out evenly. The roots should be directed out and downward when you plant. The very top of the roots (crown of the plant) should be at or just below the soil surface when you are done planting. Keep the graft union 2" above the soil line. Fill the hole in with soil and pack firmly. Be sure to water the tree, as this will permit the roots to make good contact with the soil right away. Add a tree stake to maintain the proper growing angle the tree.



Watering. Your peach tree will need to be watered regularly to make certain that the root system becomes well established. The soil surrounding your tree should be moist, but never saturated. Light green leaves can be a sign of over watering, while drooping leaves can be a sign of both over or under watering.

Fertilization. Add one cup of a good 10-10-10 or 13-13-13 fertilizer mixed thoroughly with the soil while planting your tree. Your peach tree will benefit from being fertilized annually with a 10-10-10 formula.



Weed Control. Any weeds that are present around the area of your tree should be removed immediately. Insulate the tree with 3-4 inches of mulch, and be sure to replenish as needed.

Pests & Disease. The best defense is a healthy tree. Good soil, proper feeding and adequate water are vital to its prosperity. Consult Royal Oak Farm Orchard's web site for proper pest and disease control for your tree.

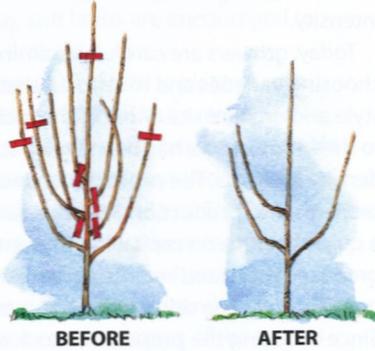
Pruning. Your peach tree will need very little pruning during its first year. In year two you can consult Royal Oak Farm Orchard's web site for proper pruning techniques. Mature apple trees will require annual pruning.

ESTABLISHING A CENTRAL LEADER APPLE TREE

The standard central leader tree training system is ideal for medium density plantings of semi-dwarf apples. This system establishes two or three tiers of permanent scaffolds rather than the temporary scaffolds utilized in the French axe or slender spindle tree.

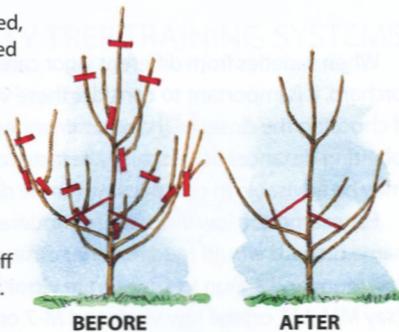
FIRST YEAR:

Head at planting time to 30" to encourage development of the first tier of scaffold branches at a height of 20-30". If wide angle branches are available at planting time, select four and tip lightly. Remove the rest. If all existing branches are undesirable, remove them, leaving 1/4" stub, so as not to damage latent buds at base of branch. In early summer, widen crotch angles of potential scaffolds by spreading with clothespins when shoots are 3-4" long.



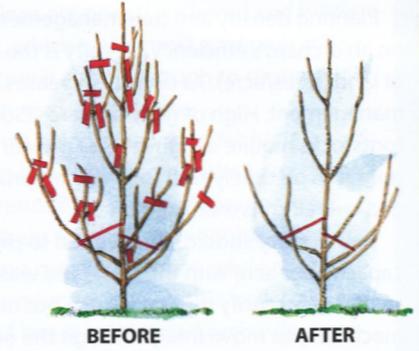
SECOND YEAR:

Complete first tier as stated for first year tree. Remove all unwanted, poorly positioned or narrow angled branches. If central leader has obtained enough height, tip at 36-42" above first tier to encourage second tier of four wide angled branches at 30-36" above first tier. To encourage branching tip central leader and scaffolds. Limb spreading to 45° off vertical should begin at this point.



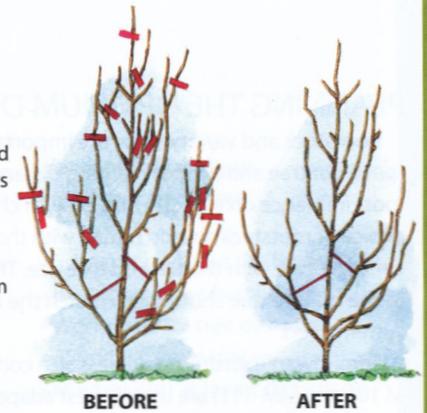
THIRD YEAR:

Remove all unwanted branches from central leader and treat established scaffolds similarly to the leader (single up forks, remove uprights and tip) to develop more horizontal wood. If possible, tip to promote third tier 30-36" above second tier. Continue spreading as necessary.



FOURTH YEAR:

Complete second and third tier as stated for three year tree if necessary. Central leader will eventually be headed severely, probably into two year wood, to bring it into balance with the rest of the tree. As trees fill space allotted and approach bearing age, make fewer heading cuts and more thinning cuts. Shorten limbs reaching into drive isles or other trees by thinning back to less vigorous side branches. Maintain central leader and pyramidal form on into maturity. Never allow an upper tier to shade out or outgrow lower limbs.

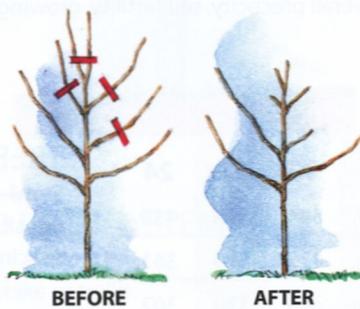


ESTABLISHING AN OPEN CENTER PEACH TREE

Open center or vase is the most common method of pruning peach and nectarine trees. Peaches will not produce fruit buds in shade, so an open pruning system is required for best light and air circulation. Most peach varieties have a natural spreading growth habit.

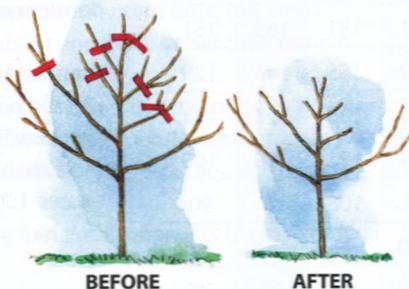
FIRST YEAR (SUMMER):

Head at planting time to 30" and "whip" the tree by removing all branches to a 1/4" stub, so as not to damage latent buds. Early in the first growing season, strip lower shoots, leaving the top six to eight shoots. The top three to four shoots, near heading cut, will be upright and should be summer tipped by removing half the growth. This will encourage lower branches to form wider angles.



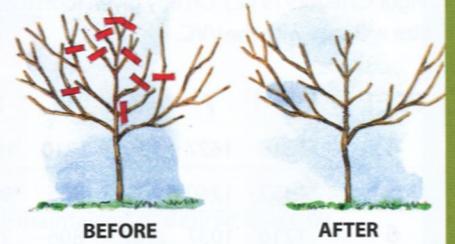
SECOND YEAR (DORMANT):

Tip upper branches again to retain "bush" in top center of the tree and promote spreading of scaffolds. Choose two or three scaffolds avoiding branches headed into the southwest. Only tip scaffolds which are too dominant.



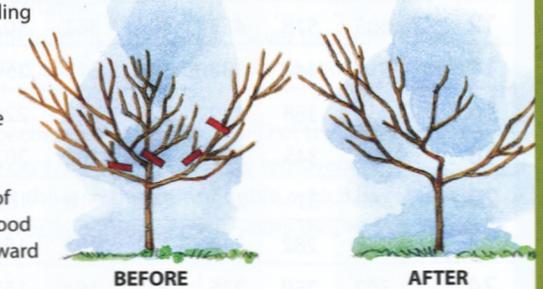
SECOND YEAR (SUMMER):

Tip again on "bush" to promote vigor in selected scaffold limbs. Severely tip any upright growth which initiates within 15" of the trunk to promote vigorous extension of the scaffolds. Summer pruning during the first and second years may be required more than once.



THIRD YEAR (DORMANT):

Remove "bush" from upper center of the tree. Remove uprights from main scaffold and "single up" any forks. Make heading cuts as required to prevent dominant scaffolds. Continue thinning and remove vigorous uprights as tree matures. Encourage renewal of first year's fruiting wood by tipping to an outward growing lateral.



Peach, Plum, and Prune



1

Dormant



2

Swollen bud



3

Half-inch green



4

Pink



5

Bloom



6

Petal fall



7

Shuck split

Stone Fruits (Peach, Plum, Cherry) Spray Guide



Table 9. Stone Fruits (Peach, Plum, Cherry) Spray Guide

Time to Spray	Pest(s)	Pesticide	Remarks
Winter dormant season	Cytospora canker, Pseudomonas	none	Remove and destroy cankered wood to prevent spread.
Dormant (before buds swell in spring — peaches only)	peach leaf curl, black knot	lime-sulfur <i>or</i> chlorothalonil	See lime-sulfur description on page 26.
Prebloom (when blossom buds show pink)	brown rot (blossom blight)	captan <i>or</i> thiophanate-methyl <i>or</i> chlorothalonil <i>or</i> myclobutanil ¹	
	both insects and disease	MPFS ²	Insects are not usually a problem before petal fall. MPFS is designed to control insect and disease problems. Use when both are present. Pesticides should only be used when needed.
Bloom	brown rot	captan <i>or</i> chlorothalonil <i>or</i> thiophanate-methyl <i>or</i> myclobutanil ¹	To protect bees, do not apply insecticides or MPFS during bloom.
Petal fall (when 75% of petals have fallen)	plum curculio, oriental fruit moth	esfenvalerate <i>or</i> gamma cyhalothrin	This is the most important spray for plum curculio, which attacks most tree fruit crops. Cherry leaf spot is only on cherry.
	brown rot, cherry leaf spot, powdery mildew	captan <i>or</i> thiophanate-methyl <i>or</i> chlorothalonil <i>or</i> myclobutanil ¹	
	both insects and disease	MPFS ²	MPFS is designed to control insect and disease problems. Use when both are present. Pesticides should only be used when needed.
Shuck split (when most shucks have split apart)	plum curculio	esfenvalerate <i>or</i> gamma cyhalothrin	Important spray for plum curculio. Good curculio control will help improve brown rot control.
	brown rot, cherry leaf spot	captan <i>or</i> chlorothalonil <i>or</i> thiophanate-methyl <i>or</i> myclobutanil ¹	
	both insects and disease	MPFS ²	MPFS is designed to control insect and disease problems. Use when both are present. Pesticides should only be used when needed.
First cover (10 days after shuck split)	plum curculio, cherry fruit fly, oriental fruit moth	spinosad ³ <i>or</i> carbaryl (Sevin®)	Cherry fruit fly is a pest on cherry only.
	brown rot, cherry leaf spot	thiophanate-methyl <i>or</i> myclobutanil ¹ <i>or</i> captan	
	both insects and disease	MPFS ²	MPFS is designed to control insect and disease problems. Use when both are present. Pesticides should only be used when needed.
Additional cover sprays (apply at two week intervals)	cherry fruit fly, oriental fruit moth	same as first cover	
	brown rot, cherry leaf spot	same as first cover	
	both insects and disease	same as first cover	
Preharvest sprays (apply according to label directions beginning 3 to 4 weeks before harvest)	brown rot	captan <i>or</i> thiophanate-methyl <i>or</i> myclobutanil ¹	Read container labels for the number of days between final spray and harvest.
	both insects and disease	MPFS ²	MPFS is designed to control insect and disease problems. Use when both are present. Pesticides should only be used when needed.

¹Do not apply myclobutanil (Immunox®) more than 10 times per season.

²MPFS = multipurpose fruit spray.

³Observe limits on the amount of spinosad that can be applied per season.

CONVENTIONAL AND NATURAL SPRAY PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS

All Seasons Horticultural Spray Oil - A superior type paraffinic oil that may be used as a growing season spray, dormant spray (no leaves) or delayed dormant (green tip) spray to control overwintering eggs of red spiders, scale insects, aphids, bud moths, leaf roller, red bug, codling moth, blister mites, galls, whitefly, mealy bugs and other insects and diseases. Highly recommended for use on fruit trees, shade trees, shrubs, ornamentals, roses and vegetables. Safe and pleasant to use for Organic Gardening..

Copper Fungicide RTU - Copper Octanoate for controlling early and late blight, apple scab, leaf spots, downy mildew, anthracnose and certain other fungal diseases on various vegetables, flowers, ornamentals and fruits. Won't burn plants and approved for organic gardening .

Captan - Multipurpose fungicide for ornamentals and fruits. Controls damping-off, powdery mildew, botrytis blossom blight, anthracnose, rust, brown rots, early blight and late blight on various plants. Unlike many other fungicides, Captan has never indicated a disease resistance problem!

Captain Jack's Deadbug Brew RTU - Captain Jack's Deadbug Brew® contains Spinosad (spin-OH-sid), a product first isolated from a naturally occurring soil dwelling bacterium that was collected on a Caribbean island from an abandoned rum distillery. Deadbug Brew® kills bagworms, borers, beetles, caterpillars, codling moth, gypsy moth, loopers, leaf miners, spider mites, tent caterpillars, thrips and more! Use on fruits, vegetables, berries, citrus, grapes, nuts and ornamentals and approved for organic gardening.

Thuricide Bacillus Thuringiensis (Bt) Conc. - BT Kurstaki 15% A liquid formulation of bacteria. Controls caterpillars, loopers, cabbageworms, hornworms, leaf folders and leaf rollers. One pint treats up to 10,875 sq. ft. Won't harm beneficial insects and approved for organic gardening.

Citrus, Fruit & Nut Orchard Spray RTS - This all natural, all in one, insect and disease control concentrate is perfect for those customers that prefer a natural choice. Great for citrus, fruit and nuts, and also vegetables, ornamentals, houseplants and lawns. Truly effective and all purpose. Use as little as 2 1/2 oz./gal. Available in convenient, no-mix ready-to-spray bottles for easy application to trees and larger areas. Contains sulfur plus pyrethrin, natural organic compounds normally derived from Chrysanthemum flowers that have potent insecticidal activity.

Ortho® Flower, Fruit & Vegetable Spray RTU - This is a ready to use product that contains .006% acetamiprid, a synthetic organic compound of the family of chemicals that acts as neonicotinoid insecticides. Acetamiprid is a contact insecticide for sucking-type insects and can be applied as a foliar spray or a soil treatment. It acts on its target organisms by antagonising the nicotine acetylcholine receptor of neural pathways of the insects, affecting synapse. It has transliminar action with the stomach contents as well as stomach action. Acetamiprid acts on a broad spectrum of insects, including aphids, thrips, plum curculio, apple maggot and Lepidoptera, especially codling moth. It is approved for use on apples, aubergines, cherries, house plants, lettuce, ornamental garden plants, pears, peppers, plums, potatoes and tomatoes.