

# **Simplified Pruning and Training Plan for the Tall Spindle System**

## **First Leaf - First year of growing after planting**

### **At Planting**

Plant highly feathered (branched) trees (6 -15 feathers) at a spacing of 3-4' X 11-12' (90cm-1.2m X 3.3m-3.6m). Adjust graft union to 6" (15 cm) above soil level. Remove all feathers below 24" (60 cm) using a flush cut. Do not head leader or feathers.

Remove any feathers that are larger than 2/3 the diameter of the leader

3-4" Growth: Rub off 2nd and 3rd buds below the new leader bud to eliminate competitors to the leader shoot.

### **May**

Install a 3-4 wire tree support system or tree stakes that will allow tree to be supported to 3m.

Attach trees to support system with a permanent tree tie above 1st tier of scaffolds leaving a 2 inch diameter loop to allow for trunk grow.

### **Early June**

Tie down each feather that is longer than 10" (25 cm) to a pendant position below horizontal with biodegradable rubberbands.



## **Second Leaf - Second year of growing after planting**

### **Dormant**

Do not head leader or prune trees.

10-15 cm growth Pinch lateral shoots in top 1/4 of last years leader growth removing about 5 cm of growth (the terminal bud and 4-5 young leaves).

### **Early June**

Hand thin crop to single fruit four inches apart. (Target 15-20 fruits/tree)

### **Mid June**

Re-pinch all lateral shoots in top 1/4 of last years growth. Tie developing leader to support system with permanent tie.

### **Third Leaf - Third year of growing after planting**

#### **Dormant**

Do not head leader. Remove overly vigorous limbs that are more than 2/3 the diameter of the leader using a bevel cut.

#### **Late May**

Thin according to crop load, tree strength, and weather conditions, then follow up with hand thinning to appropriate levels to ensure regular annual cropping and adequate fruit size. (Target 50-60 fruits/tree)

#### **June**

Tie developing leader to support system with a permanent tie.

#### **August**

Lightly summer prune to encourage good light penetration and fruit color.

### **Fourth Leaf**

#### **Dormant**

Do not head leader. Remove overly vigorous limbs that are more than 2/3 the diameter of the leader using a bevel cut.

#### **Late May**

Thin then follow up with hand thinning to appropriate levels to ensure regular annual cropping and adequate fruit size. (Target 100 fruits/tree)

#### **June**

Tie developing leader to support system with a permanent tie at the top of the pole.  
August Lightly summer prune to encourage light penetration and fruit color.

### **Mature Tree Pruning (Fifth-Twentieth Leaf)**

#### **Dormant**

Limit tree height to 10' (3m) by cutting leader back to a fruitful side branch.

Annually, remove at least 2 limbs including lower tier scaffolds that are more than 2/3 the diameter of the leader using a bevel cut. Shorten bottom tier scaffolds where needed back to side branch to facilitate movement of equipment and preserve fruit quality on lower limbs. Remove any limbs larger than 1" diameter in the upper 2ft (60cm) of the tree

#### **Late May**

Thin then follow up with hand thinning to appropriate levels to ensure regular annual cropping and adequate fruit size. (Target 100-120 fruits/tree)

#### **August**

Lightly summer prune to encourage light penetration and maintain pyramidal tree shape.