



# Pruning Fruit Trees

A quick guide to get started

B. Dinter Nursery Ltd.  
2205 Phipps Road, Duncan  
Ph: 250 748 2023  
Email: [info@dinternursery.ca](mailto:info@dinternursery.ca)  
[www.dinternursery.ca](http://www.dinternursery.ca)

## **Pruning Objectives:**

- Develop a framework of branches for maximum fruit production
- Keep tree open to admit light and permit air circulation
- Remove diseased and damaged wood

## **Basic Principles:**

- Develop scaffold branches to support fruiting wood
- Direct all growth out from the centre
- Remove crossing branches
- Remove all dead, diseased, and damaged wood (3 D's)
- Cut back last years growth by 1/3 to outward facing bud
- Space branches evenly around tree

## **Sequence of steps to pruning a fruit tree:**

1. Remove suckers at base of tree
2. Remove branches below scaffold branches
3. Remove the 3 D's (dead, damaged or diseased branches)
4. Remove branches growing towards the centre
5. Remove crossing branches
6. Remove or head back upright branches
7. Head back new growth (1 yr. wood) to an outward facing bud, cutting about 1/3 off
8. Space branches evenly around tree to give it balance
9. All cuts should be at an angle to avoid dead wood

## **Notes:**

- Fruit spurs form on two year old wood and last for several years
- Best to prune lightly every year, hard pruning every few years causes water sprouts.
- Peaches fruit on one year old wood. Prune hard, leaving an even distribution of one year wood, 12-18' long on the scaffold branches.
- Dormant spray can be applied after pruning, but before buds swell to remove overwintering pests.