



Growing Fruit Trees

Why plant a fruit tree? Because fresh fruit from your backyard tree is always better! Plus you can choose varieties that are not often found at the store. The instructions below will give you some tips for growing healthy fruit trees and getting great harvests.

1. Plant Selection

Choose the right tree for your area. Consider the mature size of the tree and make sure that you have enough space. Most fruit trees require a nice sunny area. If you are planting a tropical tree, plant in the most protected spot on your property. Usually this will be the south or south-east side of the house.

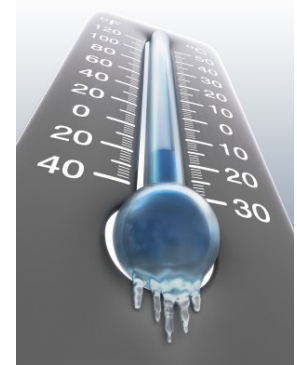


2. Use Rich Soil

Fruit trees need rich, well-drained soil. Dig a nice large hole and use plenty of Kerby's Planting Soil mixed 50/50 with the existing soil for great results. See our *New Plant Care* handout for a guide to planting and watering new trees. Also don't forget to fertilize regularly.

3. Protect in Winter

One consideration that we give tropical fruit trees is winter protection. The first step in protection is covering. Cover trees completely with a frost blanket, securing the blanket to the ground with anchor pins. The blanket must be secured to the ground or no heat will be trapped. Doubling blankets or additional heat may be necessary in hard freezes or for particularly sensitive trees. Plant what you are able to protect and make sure you have the materials on hand for covering before a freeze.



4. Enjoy

When I was a kid I used to sit in a large peach tree with my siblings and eat peaches until our shirts were wet and our hands were sticky. Follow these steps for planting and protecting and you'll be enjoying delicious harvests soon too!

