



EDIBLE
GARDENING
SERIES

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Combination Fruit Trees

Combination fruit trees make it possible for a backyard grower to grow several varieties in a small space. When selecting a tree, make sure your favorite variety has a good branch.

PLANTING

We recommend **Gardner & Bloome Soil Building Compost**, **Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer**, **Bonide Root n Grow** and **lime**. See our **Planting Guide** for more information. Always plant the smallest branch to the south/southwest to ensure it gets plenty of sun. Cut back the strongest growing branch(es) by two-thirds, and just prune the tip of the weakest.

POLLINATING

Combination trees have their own pollinator grafted onto them.

PRUNING (MAINTENANCE)

Do not let one variety take over. To keep the four varieties in balance, grow the tree as an “open center”, maintaining the four main branches. Prune out most of the branches that grow into the middle of the tree. Prune back more aggressive limbs.

Summer pruning may be necessary in order to let the sunshine get to all the developing varieties. Remember to keep even sunlight available to all developing branches.

Maintain your combination fruit tree so that each fruit type grows in balance with the other. Careful pruning applies to all combination fruit trees, but especially to the combination plum and apple trees whose varieties have different growing habits. Combo pear and cherry trees tend to grow upright and will need their branches spread.

FERTILIZING

Fertilize in the spring with **Dr. Earth Fruit Tree Fertilizer** at leaf swell and then again after fruit set. Apply **lime** in the spring and then again toward the end of August.

WATERING

It is important to keep your trees watered during the summer months. This will help with quality of fruit, flavor and production of fruit. It is also important in late summer as this is when your trees are setting flower buds for the next season.

MULCHING

Apply 2 to 3 inches of **Soil Building Compost** in a 3-foot diameter around each tree. This helps with moisture control, weed control and supplies some nutrients.

SPRAYING

Spray your fruit trees with dormant spray in late winter and early spring. See our **Spray Guide**.

HARVESTING

Harvest will be extended due to the different varieties grafted on the trees.

CHECK LIST

- Combination Tree(s)
- Soil Building Compost
- Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer
- Lime
- Dr. Earth Fruit Tree Fertilizer
- Bonide Root n Grow

