

# Easy Tree Care Guide for Deciduous Garden Trees



SEASON	TASKS	YOUR NOTES
<p><b>Winter:</b></p> <p><b>Prune</b></p> <p><b>Fertilize</b></p>	<p>In winter, deciduous fruit trees require little care. Water only if winter rainfall is abnormally low, and then only about once per month. Pruning is done to control the size, and to improve the structure by removing dead or crossing branches, and twiggy growth. This will also improve the amount of fruit.</p>	<p><b>HERE'S THE SHORT VERSION:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water <b>Weekly</b> in Spring Summer &amp; Fall - 1x, 2x or more as needed. This depends on season &amp; whether your soil drains fast or slow. Soak deeply down to 18". Get this part right and your tree will be happy</li> <li>2. Fertilize <b>per directions at left</b></li> <li>3. Prune, check for pests, add worm castings <b>occasionally</b></li> </ol>
<p><b>Spring:</b></p> <p><b>Water &amp; Fertilize</b></p>	<p><u>When new leaves have emerged</u> in early spring it is time to start watering if rains are not sufficient. Adjust water to the amount and fullness of the leaves - as the leaves grow big and the weather warms, the tree will need more water. Use a moisture meter to check the soil in the root ball about 5" from the trunk and 3-4 inches deep. Water when moisture meter indicates halfway to "Dry". In spring this is usually every 2 weeks if no rain. Yellowing leaves indicate too much water.</p> <p><b>Fertilize in February, May and August per package directions.</b></p>	
<p><b>Summer:</b></p> <p><b>Water, Fertilize, Harvest fruit</b></p>	<p>Continue to provide regular water - 2-3 x every week is good most summers, but check with a moisture meter to be sure. Should Santa Ana conditions occur, be sure to soak the tree ahead of time so it can withstand the dehydrating winds. Deep and slow watering is best - Always aim to soak the soil to a 12-18" depth.</p>	
<p><b>Autumn:</b></p>	<p>Water less frequently (but still saturate deeply) as weather cools and leaves drop. <b><u>Stop watering once leaves are mostly gone &amp; rains become regular. If there is little rain, supplement with a good soak each month.</u></b></p>	
<p><b>More Resources</b></p>	<p>Dave Wilson Nursery</p> <p>Excellent videos and more from California's top grower of bare root fruit and ornamental trees</p>	<p><a href="http://www.DaveWilson.com">www.DaveWilson.com</a></p>
	<p>UC Davis &amp; UC Master Gardener info</p>	<p><a href="http://www.homeorchard.ucdavis.edu">www.homeorchard.ucdavis.edu</a></p>
<p><b>IMPORTANT NOTE</b></p>	<p>Most tree care advice is intended for established trees and may not be appropriate for newly planted and young trees. If you are not sure, please give us a call.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.TheWishingTreeCompany.com">www.TheWishingTreeCompany.com</a></p> <p>760.753.1760</p>