

# Annual Fruit Tree Care

## Central Coast of CA

### Winter

- prune trees once dormant*
- plant new trees as early as you can*
- apply an organic fertilizer if the tree needs it*
- install drip or micro sprinkler system*

### Spring

- thin fruit once marble size*
- train young trees*
- begin watering program before soil dries out*
- GOPHERS! start trapping before they take over*
- apply a round of fertilizer to weak trees*

### Summer

- harvest early varieties*
- remove damaged/infested fruit from trees*
- summer prune in aug./sept*
- keep up the watering*

### Fall

- harvest*
  - orchard floor clean up*
  - record the year's orchard happenings*
  - sow cover crops*
  - apply compost/mulch*
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# Winter Pruning Checklist

## Before you cut...

### Observe the whole picture/tree:

Form?  
Objective? (What are you trying to achieve?)  
What kind of fruit?  
Where do the fruit buds develop?  
Where do I want my fruit to hang?

Prune  
with  
fearless  
patience

## Cut...what?

### The 4 D's:

*Dead, Diseased, Damaged & Disoriented*

### Prune ONE scaffold at a time:

Find the leader and begin there.  
Decide if the scaffold needs to grow more or be shorter:  
For *more* - head leader  
For *shorter* - remove and cut to weaker leader

### Everything behind the leader is a lateral, so treat it like one.

How many fruit can really hang on that lateral?  
Pomes: shorten into two-year or older wood or let be  
Stones:  
Peaches - stub one-inch every other lateral  
          shorten remaining laterals 4"-6"  
Plums & Cots - stub one-inch every third lateral  
          shorten remaining laterals 8"-12"

When you think  
you are done...  
you are probably done!