

## Borders Fruit tree and bush Pruning Guide

Type	Fruiting Characteristics	Pruning Time	What to do	Comments
Black currents	Fruits on last years new wood	Immediately after harvest	Cut to base all branches that bore this year's fruit	
Other bush fruit: red & white currents, gooseberries, blueberries, Worcester berries	Fruits on older wood	After harvest or during winter	Cut out new growth; prune to maintain desired shape; thin out very old branches to base	Gooseberries and Worcester berries are best trained into a hedge; use supports for young bushes. They can also be trained as cordons
Cane fruit: Raspberries , Tay berries, Logan berries and Black berries except autumn fruiting raspberries	Fruit on last year's new canes, these die after fruiting.	After harvest is best but can be delayed until winter.	Cut down dead fruited canes and remove the weakest of the new canes	Raspberries are best trained as a row or as a pyramid The other cane fruit should be trained with the new canes on one side and the old on the other if room permits
Autumn fruiting raspberries	Fruits on this year's new canes	Over the winter	Cut everything to 6inches	This far North it is marginal whether these are worthwhile as autumn frosts can stop the fruit from ripening
Stone fruit: plums, peaches, apricots and cherries	Fruits on older wood	To avoid the risk of Silver Leaf disease prune only between April and mid August	Routinely cut back new growth to maintain the required size of tree. Cut out diseased branches Every few years renovate by cutting out oldest branches and those that cross each other.	As most varieties do not ripen until after mid august at our latitude; pruning is done when the fruit is on the tree. Renovation pruning may entail losing fruit unless delayed until a 'no

				fruit' year.
Type	Fruiting Characteristics	Pruning Time	What to do	Comments
Apples, Pears, Quinces and Medlars	Fruiting spurs form on older wood and can be encouraged by summer pruning	<p>Summer pruning; June – September; several times for young trees</p> <p>Winter pruning, November - March</p>	<p>Summer: To encourage the formation of fruiting spurs on non leader branches cut new growth back to leave 2 new leaves. Trim off top 4-6 inches of leaders to encourage branching .New branches can then be pruned to produce fruiting spurs.</p> <p>Routinely cut all young branches to a fruiting bud; unnecessary on mature trees.</p> <p>Periodically renovate older trees by cutting out old, diseased, crossing and overcrowded branches.</p>	<p>Mature trees need little or no summer pruning.</p> <p>Summer pruning of young trees goes along with training the tree into the desired form, ie cordon; espalier, step-over etc</p>
		David Catt; Borders Organic Gardeners, 2006		
		<p>This and other fruit pruning notes can be downloaded from: <a href="http://bordersorganicgardeners.org.uk">http://bordersorganicgardeners.org.uk</a> Members/ articles/ fruit</p>		