



FRUIT TREES 101: HOW TO GET STARTED, SOIL AMENDING, PLANTING & PRUNING

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LEMURIA NURSERY

WHOLESALE GROWER, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

7820 SERPA LANE, DIXON

WHAT IS LEMURIA NURSERY AND WHAT DO WE DO?

- Here at Lemuria we are a Wholesale Nursery, open to the public
- Lemuria Nursery first started in Oakland in 1939 then moved to Richmond a few years later, after 60 years in the Bay Area our family decided to move the nursery to Dixon in 1999.
- Now we are currently the largest wholesale grower in Solano county located on 5+ acres
- We offer many different varieties of plants such as perennials, grasses, roses, shrubs, ground covers, succulents, shade trees, herbs, edibles, seeds and fruit trees!



A LITTLE ABOUT MYSELF:

- My name is Kristina Rose Fink and I am 4th generation of Lemuria Nursery
- I currently have a degree in Horticulture and Landscape Design
- I work alongside my father and uncle propagating from mother plants, pulling orders, helping customers, pulling weeds, and more!
- My ultimate goal is to continue on the family business
- When I am not working then I am representing our company at trade shows or harvesting from my orchard and garden
- I enjoy being involved in the community, sharing knowledge about plants, gardening and backyard orchard culture!



WHAT IS BACKYARD ORCHARD CULTURE?

BACKYARD ORCHARD CULTURE IS A PROLONGED HARVEST OF FRUIT FROM A SMALL SPACE IN THE YARD.

THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED BY PLANTING AN ASSORTMENT OF FRUIT TREES CLOSE TOGETHER AND KEEPING THEM SMALL BY PROPER PRUNING.



Orchard Culture:

- Definition of an orchard: A piece of land planted with fruit trees
- When we hear the term “orchard” we think of commercial growing
- For years, most of the information about growing fruit came from commercial orchard culture
- People today don't have the space to grow on a commercial scale
- With the steps of backyard orchard culture you will see results in your fruit trees performance while staying accessible and delicious!

GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR BACKYARD ORCHARD:

- When it comes to fruit trees there are many different varieties of each fruit
- Go to your local nursery for a fruit tree availability list or check out www.davewilson.com
- Make sure to check your harvest dates of each variety
- Make sure to look for disease resistant varieties
- Always double check if your tree needs a pollinator
- Look for taste test winners!
- Ask your local nursery to find out what trees work best in your area

GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR BACKYARD ORCHARD:

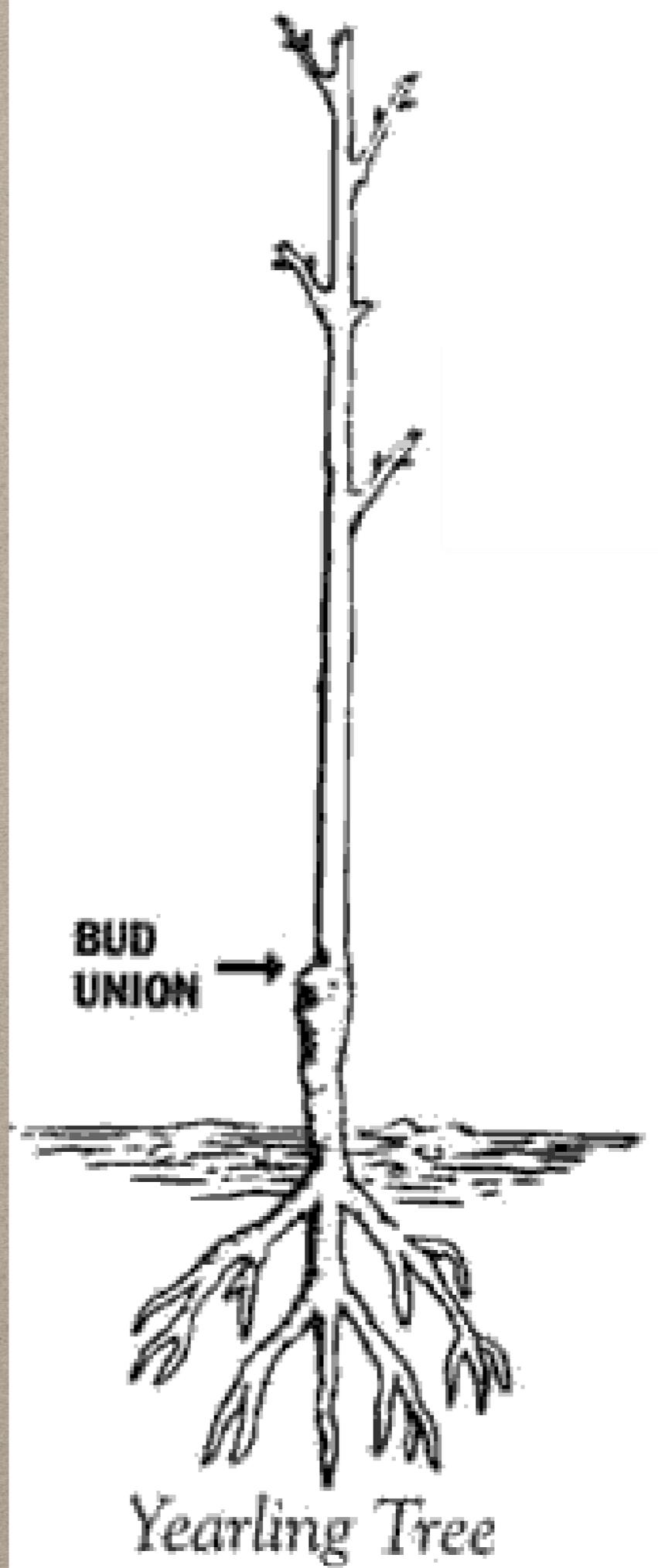
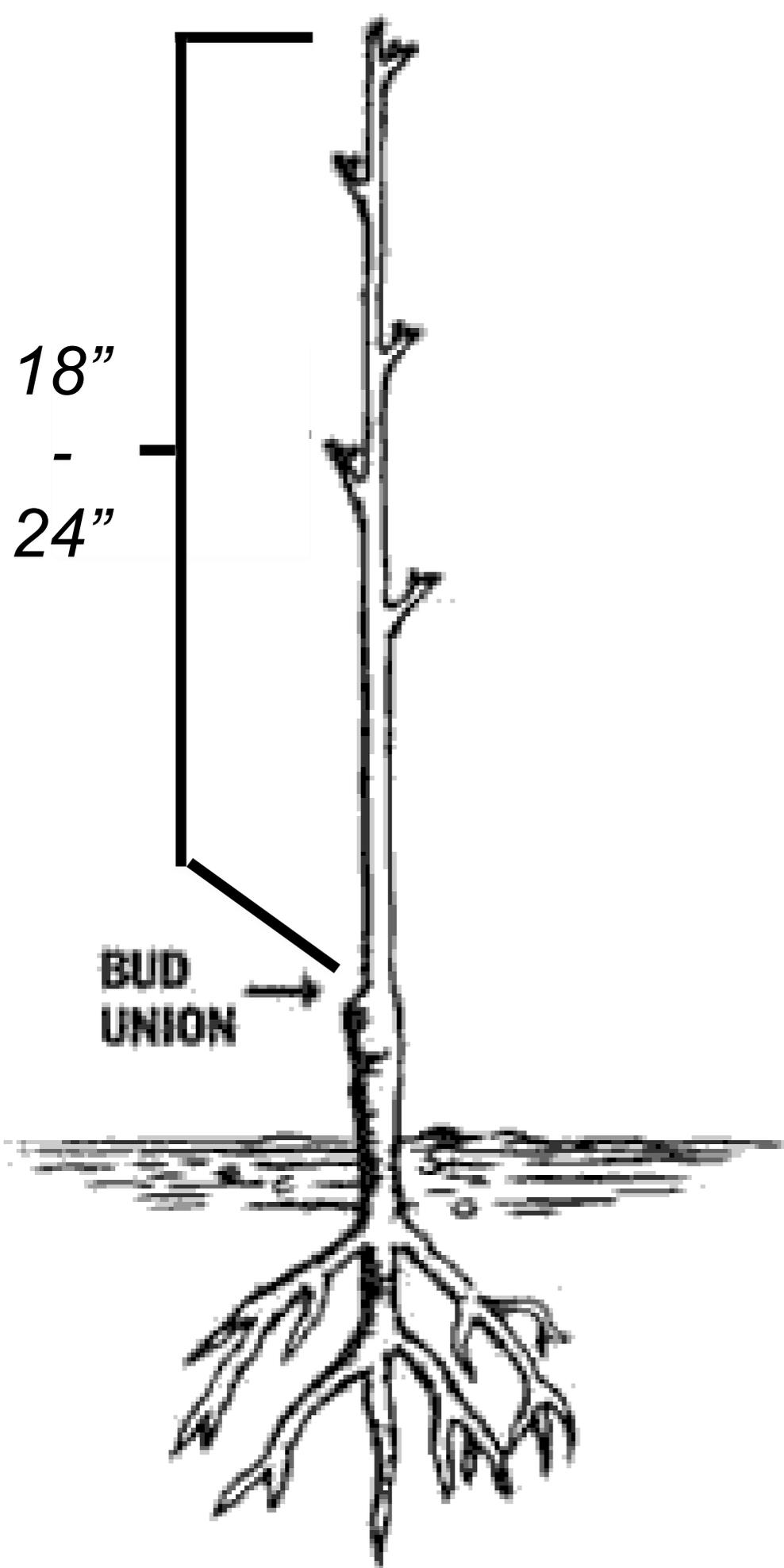
- Plan in advanced before you plant your fruit trees
- Find a desired space in full sun and stick to it
- Observe the area through all the seasons
- Make sure the area has good drainage in the winter
- Make sure your area doesn't crack in the summer
- Amend your soil before planting (Compost)
- Keep in mind some people plant 2-4 fruit trees in a hole on 1' centers and can end up with amazing results using proper pruning!

PLAN FOR PLANTING: AMEND YOUR SOIL

- We have clay soil which tends to can get sloppy during the winter and crack in the summer
- The most efficient and natural amendment for clay soil is compost
- Fruit trees like moist soil that has good drainage and easy to penetrate
- By using compost you are breaking down the soil to feed the plant, this is more gentle than using a fertilizer
- If you find that your soil is too compacted then you can plant your fruit trees on a mound or raised bed

PLANTING BARE ROOT FRUIT TREES: WHEN AND HOW

- Bare root fruit tree season starts at the beginning of the year until late February-early March
- This is the prime time to plant all deciduous fruit trees such as apples, apricots, apriums, cherries, nectarines, peaches, pears, persimmons, plums, pluots, pluerries, jujube, and nuts
- Be prepared to plant the same day you buy!
- Make sure to bury your tree a few inches below the graft union
- Add cardboard to sheet mulch and apply at least a 4-inch layer of mulch up to 4 feet from a single tree



**BEFORE YOU
MAKE THE BIG
COMMITMENT
REMEMBER
TO HAVE FUN!**

**THIS IS YOUR
SPACE TO PLAY.
HERE'S A LOOK ON
HOW OTHERS ARE
HAVING FUN WITH
THEIR BACKYARD
ORCHARD!**





Fruit tree hedge at Dave Wilson Nursery





4 trees in 1 hole at Dave Wilson Nursery



Harvest pathway



Harvest pathway 4 months later



*Shawn Carter
did 4 trees
in 1 square
hole in his
front yard
(2 Square
holes total)*



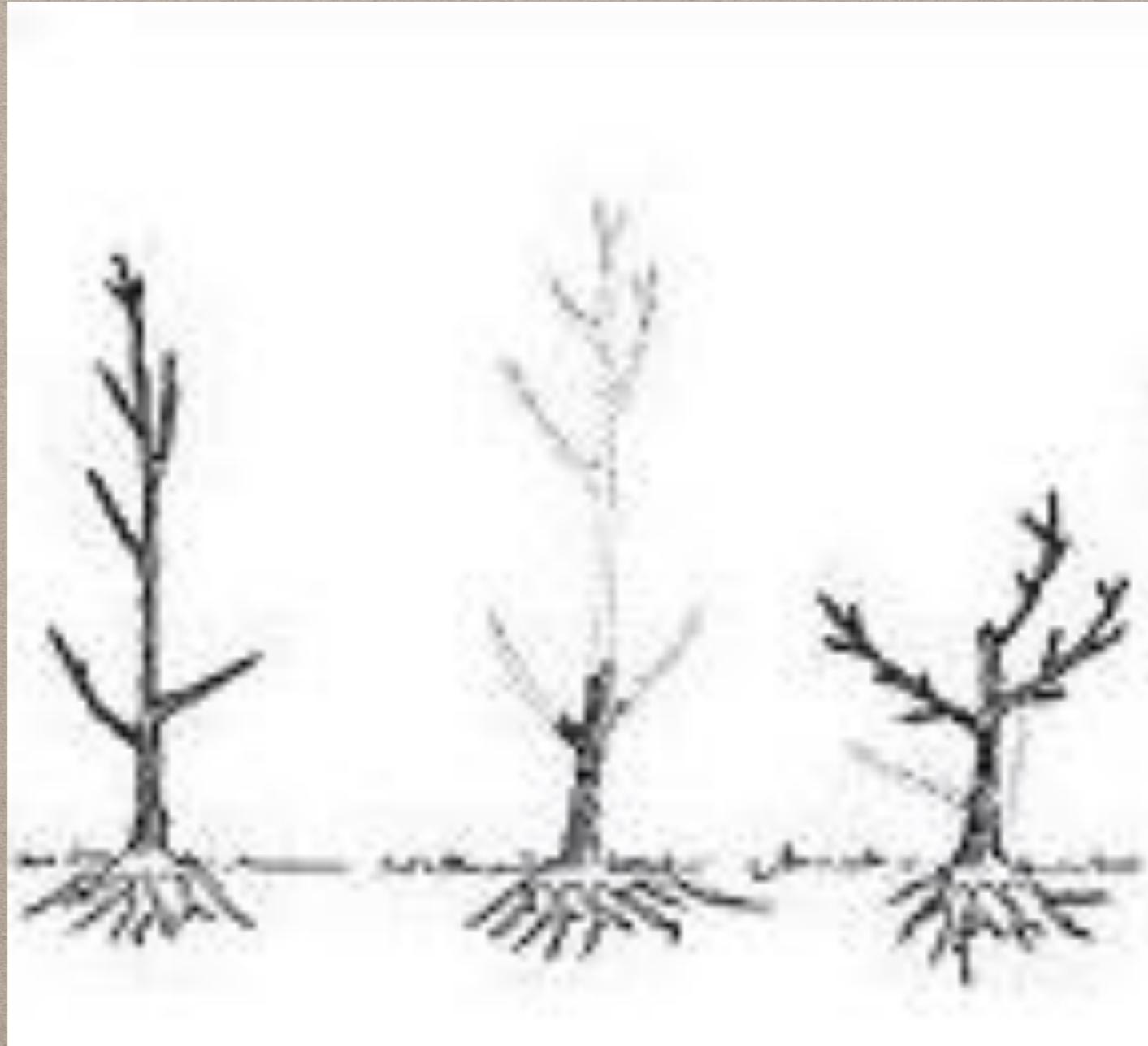
HELPFUL TIPS TO KNOW:

- A chill hour is approximated as one hour below 45 degrees in late fall or early winter.
- For our area we consider “low chill” to be 600-800 hours or less
- Be sure to keep an eye out for any pests and diseases that may arise
- Peaches can get peach leaf curl
- Asian pears and pears can get fire blight (look for fireblight resistant varieties)
- Boer can occur on the base or branches if a tree causing it to ooze and can potentially kill the tree if not treat
- To prevent sunburn and piercing pests from getting to your young tree, paint the trunk white. It’s like a layer a sunscreen!

FIRST YEAR PRUNING: WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND

- At the start of planting time, most bare root trees may be topped as low as 18inches above the ground to force low limbs. In late summer cut the subsequent growth back again. Size control and development of low fruiting wood begin in the first year.
- If you find that you're not in your garden as much, you can stick to either winter or summer pruning
- I found that constant pruning during these two seasons made my fruit much easier to get to and the limbs were easier to cut

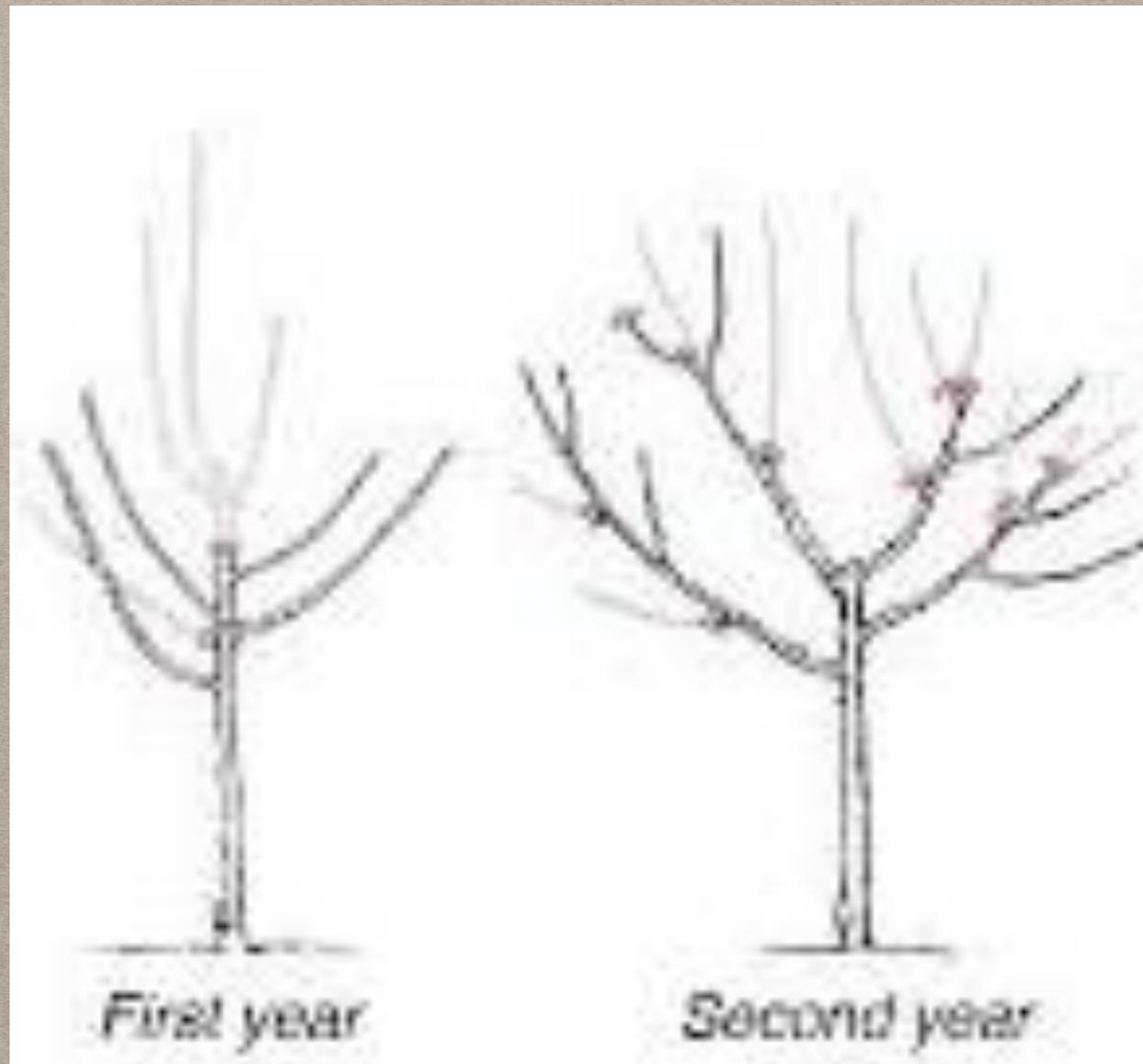
PRUNING EXAMPLES: 1ST YEAR



SECOND YEAR PRUNING:

- Cut back new growth by half
- Pruning three times a year will set your height standards
- Single-tree plantings: prune to a vase shape
- Multi-plantings: thin out the center to allow plenty of sunlight into the interior of the group of trees
- Remove all broken limbs
- Remove diseased limbs
- Cut back any suckers
- Cut back all new growth by at least half
- When limbs cross one another, one or both should be cut back or removed
- Make clean cuts
- Apricots, peaches and nectarines will require more pruning in the summer to control height
- Be careful not to cut too much at one time
- To develop an espalier, fan, or other two-dimensional form, selectively thin and train
- Don't let pruning decisions inhibit you or slow you down.**
- You learn to prune by pruning!

PRUNING EXAMPLES: 2ND YEAR



THIRD YEAR PRUNING:

- Set a height standard that is comfortable for you
- Most home growers prefer to keep their tree(s) at 6' tall-12' tall
- If you don't prune your tree in the future you will end up a 12'-15' canopy
- By establishing the growth pattern of your tree you will make your tree focus less on growing and more on producing better tasting fruit!
- There is no perfect way to have your orchard
- It's better to be aware of all the methods and apply what works best for you.
- Do what works best for your space and remember to enjoy the fruits of your labor!

NOW LET'S PRACTICE!