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FRUIT TREE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

This year county residents will add dozens of fruit trees to their orchards through the Ferry Conservation District plant sale. Here we address three of the most common questions the District might receive this year about the new trees.

How tall and wide will my fruit trees be when they mature? How far apart should I plant them?:

- The Honeycrisp Apple and Manchurian Crabapple are larger semi-dwarf trees. They will grow to approximately 14'-25' tall and wide (2/3 the size of a standard tree).
- The Gravenstein Apple is a slightly smaller semi-dwarf tree, which will grow to approximately 10'-18' tall and wide (50-60% of a standard tree size).
- Both the President and the Prune Plum trees are standard-size plums and will grow to about 18'-25' tall and wide.
- Space trees based on mature width, with a little extra between trees.
- Trees may be pruned to make them smaller (see below.)

Should I prune my trees?:

- Yes. This is important. There are many good books and internet sites to help you with proper pruning.
- You may consider “heading” or “topping” the new tree upon first planting. In addition you may want to prune some of the branches on the new tree, as well.
- Continued proper pruning of fruit trees is important for shaping and sizing of the trees. Proper spacing of branches is also essential for airflow and sunlight penetration and will make your tree healthier and more productive.
- The mature size of all fruit trees can be reduced by proper pruning (If you plan to prune trees to a smaller height, you can consider planting them closer together.)
- Pruning can be done in the dormant season and/or during the growing season