



PEAR TREES

Site planning

Pear trees produce best when planted in full sun with well-drained soil with an ideal PH of 6-6.5. Plant in a location with good air circulation so leaves dry quickly after a rainfall, to minimize the risk of fungal diseases. When choosing a location, be sure to have other varieties close by to aid in cross pollination! As always- the further away from cover of the woods, the less inclined wildlife is to steal your fruit!

Planting

Tree spacing is influenced by the rootstock and your pruning plans. Most of our pear trees are grafted onto OHxF333 rootstock which will grow to 15' at maturity. It's best to leave space between trees for air flow, so we recommend planting them 20' apart if you have the space to do so. If you have a smaller area, remember you can keep them pruned to any size you want, so you can maintain them much smaller. Dig a hole twice the size of the pot and loosen up as much soil as you can around the hole. As you fill in around the root ball be sure to pat the soil down to remove any air pockets. DON'T add fertilizer to the hole as you can burn the roots. Ensure the soil level at the top of the pot is level with the ground - don't bury the trunk deeper than it was in the pot! Water well. Mulching the ground around the tree helps maintain moisture in the soil and cuts down on competition from weeds. DON'T put the mulch right up against the trunk of the tree - keep it out a few inches. A spiral tree guard is recommended to protect the trunk from damage as well as rodents chewing the nutritious bark in the winter months.

Pruning

When you receive your pear tree it will have no/very few branches at this stage. 2nd year trees should have any branches removed from the bottom 18" and remaining branches spaced well apart in different directions. Early blossoms on the tree should be pinched off to help the tree focus its energy into structural growth rather than fruit production. Your goal in pruning the young tree is to form a balanced framework that will guide the tree's growth into the future. It's best to prune harder in the early years to shape the tree, as opposed to serious corrective pruning later on!

Harvesting

Pear generally start producing fruit at 5-6 years. Most pears are different from other fruits- you pick them before they ripen when they are still hard and yellow/green colored. The best way to tell if a pear is ready to harvest is taking the fruit in your hand and tilting it horizontally-if it is ready it will easily release from the branch. Grittiness and internal softness are signs you have left the pear on the tree too long!