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How Pruning and Training a Tree Can Help That Tree Throughout the Year by [Peter Dulay](#)

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You can purchase tomatoes, peaches and pears in the produce department at your residential market, but nothing beats the pleasure of growing your own produce at home. All plants, from fruit plants to vegetable plants, will need some sort of insecticide to stop outdoor insects like caterpillars and ladybugs from chewing on the leaves. It may appear that plants require a lot of upkeep to keep the leaves green and free of bite marks, but fruit trees are just as susceptible to pests chewing away at the leaves, and the branches can even get diseases that can kill the tree itself. You cannot just plant the tree and expect it to mature; you must trim it and train it so that it can achieve a right height and be free of diseases.

Pruning

Pruning helps do away with old, diseased branches that damage a tree's structure of growth, but pruning can help stunt the tree's growth to keep it from growing wild and losing a sound structure. Two forms of pruning exist: dormant and summer pruning; each serves a specific purpose and should be performed only during particular times of the year (e.g. dormant pruning is to be performed only during the winter to stabilize growth). You must have a set pruning cycle for a tree to make sure that its branches and fruit grow healthily and that no blockage of light to its trunk crops up during the winter and fall parts of the year. The time for pruning will hinge on one aspect: the tree's age; no matter whether it is peach trees or cherry trees you are hoping to keep healthy, age matters in scheduling. For example, younger trees should be pruned later during the winter to avoid injury, while older trees may be pruned earlier in the winter before fall hits.

Summer pruning is as important as winter pruning, because during this time of year, the hacking off of some branches will prevent the tree from growing out of control. When performing summer pruning, a person should begin to remove the shoots as soon as the buds begin to grow, and normally cutting should be performed on the top growth of a tree or to remove any unwanted shoots.

Training

The perfect tree has a strong trunk, healthy leaves and a symmetrical structure, but trees do not normally mature in the most suitable environments. Unfortunately, trees tend to have awkward growing patterns that twist, turn and curve like a slinky, creating various issues for farmers. With the aid of training wire and sticks, individuals can push branches together or away from each other to fight the awkward twists and turns a tree may witness during its early growth period. For instance, you may want to grow some pear trees in your backyard, and to do so, you will need some growing tools to keep the branches from growing however they will naturally.

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