

# Home Orchard

## Home Orchard

### Location, Location, Location.

Choose a sunny area with well-drained fertile soil. High clay soils will benefit from an addition of compost at the time of planting; add 1/3 compost to 2/3 native soil.

### Self pollinating or not?

Fruit set is the end result of flower pollination which usually is facilitated by bees. When deciding on trees for your yard, keep in mind some varieties need pollen from another variety. Self pollinating varieties do not need a second variety for fruit to set.

Pollinator Requirements for Dickman Farms Fruit Trees

Apple– In general all varieties need another variety for pollination.

Pear– All varieties need another variety for pollination.

Cherry– Most are self pollinating.

Peach- All are self pollinating.

### Making Room for your Orchard

The trees offered at Dickman Farms are either dwarf (8'-10') or semi-dwarf (12'-15'). In general these trees should be planted around 12'-14' apart keeping like varieties together, i.e. apples with apples. When planting additional rows, try to keep them separated by approximately 20'.

### Pruning

Due to their small size little pruning is usually needed in the home orchard.

When the tree is young:

1. Remove any branches crossing over another that touch or will create an injury.
2. Thin out inward growing branches
3. Remove anything broken
4. Lightly trimming off the tips on larger branches will encourage branching. Shaping comes later.

In the first years of growth it is beneficial to remove most of the fruit set. This ensures energy is directed towards establishing a healthy strong root system. As trees mature careful pruning will help to shape them. Pear, Apple and Cherry trees are usually trained to one central leader in the home orchard. Peaches are trained into a broad vase shape without a central leader. At anytime during your tree's life you should repeat Steps, 1, 2 & 3 from above. Remember to prune to allow good air movement. Avoid narrow-angle crotches. Reduce suckers and water sprouts. Apples and Pear Trees can be pruned anytime the tree is dormant. Peach, Cherry & Plum trees should be pruned when in blossom. (Pernial Canker, a fungus, infects open wounds in cool weather.)



**DICKMAN  
FARMS**

GREENHOUSES & GARDEN CENTER

Where beauty comes naturally.

13 Archie St., Auburn NY 13021

Located off Rte 38A in Auburn (315) 253-3030 • dickmanfarms.com

# Home Orchard

## **Fertilization**

A compost addition is beneficial when planting. Wait 30 days after planting to add fertilizer. A general fertilizer can then be worked into the top 1" of soil about 1 1/2"-2" from the tree trunk.

## **Watering**

During the first growing season new trees will benefit from a deep soak once a week if there has been no rain. Established trees should be watered in times of drought.

## **Additional Care**

**Spraying-** To provide disease and insect protection you need several spray combinations that have been developed. Ask a Garden Center Professional for a program that works for you. Be sure to read the labels for proper application directions.

**Physical barriers-** Rabbits, voles, field mice and deer may dine on your trees in the winter. Possible protection in the form of tree wraps, fencing and bitter tasting sprays may be an option.

Tree Management Calendars are available upon request.



**DICKMAN  
FARMS**

GREENHOUSES & GARDEN CENTER

Where beauty comes naturally.

13 Archie St., Auburn NY 13021

Located off Rte 38A in Auburn (315) 253-3030 • [dickmanfarms.com](http://dickmanfarms.com)