



## **DORMANT PRUNING**

The best time to prune your fruit trees is when they are dormant. This means pruning them after the last hard frost but before they flower. Dormant pruning is an invigorating process. During the fall energy is stored primarily in the trunk and root system to support the branches of the tree. The dormant pruned tree, with fewer growing points, responds by producing many new, vigorous, upright shoots which shade the tree and inhibit proper development.

## **SUMMER PRUNING**

Summer pruning eliminates an energy or “food” producing portion of the tree and may result in reduced tree growth. Summer pruning can begin as soon as the buds start to grow, but it is generally started after vegetative growth is several inches long. For most purposes, summer pruning should be limited to removing the upright and vigorous current season’s growth; only thinning cuts should be used. To minimize the potential for winter injury, summer pruning should not be done after the end of July.

## **WHAT TO PRUNE**

- All suckers
- Branch stubs or broken branches
- Downward growing branches
- Rubbing and criss-crossed branches
- Upward growing interior branches
- Thin out enough new growth to allow light to filter in so when the tree has leafed out so the fruit can ripen and colour properly.

## **HOW**

- Always make clean cuts with a sterile tool to prevent disease.
- Upright branches are generally vegetative. Horizontal branches generate the fruit. A good combination of both is necessary for fruiting now and in future years.
- Topping a vertical branch encourages vegetative growth necessary for development to the tree and creates a bushy effect. Topping vertical branches is done to renew fruiting.
- New growth occurs right where you have made a cut.
- Avoid pruning the flowering and fruiting spurs.