HIGH DENSITY TRELLISED FRUIT TREES

Our trellised apple and pear trees were planted in September of 2022. They are spaced three feet apart and twelve feet between rows. The posts are untreated black locust which is used for rot resistance and organic certification. There are four trellis wires spaced at two and a half, five, seven, and nine foot heights.

WHY PLANT FRUIT TREES THIS WAY?

- Encourages trees to put energy into fruit production instead of trunk strength
- Provides a uniform structure for tree training, promoting uniform growth
- Improves light penetration for better fruit quality and even ripening
- Produces earlier yields, potentially within two years of planting, and higher total yields over the life of the orchard
- Reduces labor costs and encourages more uniform pruning, training, and thinning
- Easier to harvest with less fruit waste



Cutting the central growing tip just below the next wire...

forces strong scaffold branches to sprout to the sides.

COMMERCIAL FRUIT TREES ARE USUALLY GRAFTED AND CONSIST OF TWO PARTS: THE SCION WHICH IS ABOVE GROUND, AND THE ROOTSTOCK WHICH IS THE LOWER TRUNK AND ROOTS. THE VARIETY SELECTED FOR THE SCION DETERMINES THE FRUIT CHARACTERISTICS SUCH AS SIZE, COLOR, AND QUALITY. THE VARIETY SELECTED FOR THE ROOTSTOCK DETERMINES TREE SIZE, PRECOCITY, DISEASE RESISTANCE, AND COLD HARDINESS.



Dormant rootstock cut for grafting





Scion wood cut and inserted



Graft junction wrapped buds will shoot in spring



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