



Project List:

Fruit Trees

- ☐ **Root Stimulator**—organic solution with seaweed greatly strengthens plants and lessens transplant shock.
- ☐ **Hardwood Mulch**—or other shredded wood mulch. Apply a 2-3 inch layer, leaving 3-4 inches clear on either side of the trunk for air circulation, and lightly water again.
- ☐ **Soaker Hose**—and other types of drip irrigation methods can be more efficient long term watering solutions.
- ☐ **Pruners**—high-quality, bypass-type pruners are always a good tool to have on hand as you will be pruning regularly.
- ☐ **Fertilizer**—Try **Espoma's Tree-tone** or other fruit tree specific food after the first year.

TIMING: Fruit trees are generally available in late fall and late winter, and these are ideal times to plant.

SELECTION:

- Apples and stone fruit require sufficient 'chill hours'—the total number of hours the plant experiences above freezing but below 45 degrees. We've selected for you the trees that grow best in North Texas, needing the lower range of chill hours at about 750 or more.
- Most fruit trees produce best with a second pollinator present. *Apples, pears, and plums require one.* Plan for room for at least 2 trees of compatible varieties within at least 400 feet of each other.

SITE:

- Plant all fruit trees in full sun, in soil that drains well. Higher elevated areas will drain better, and offer more air circulation. Make sure your planting area is easily accessible.

PLANT:

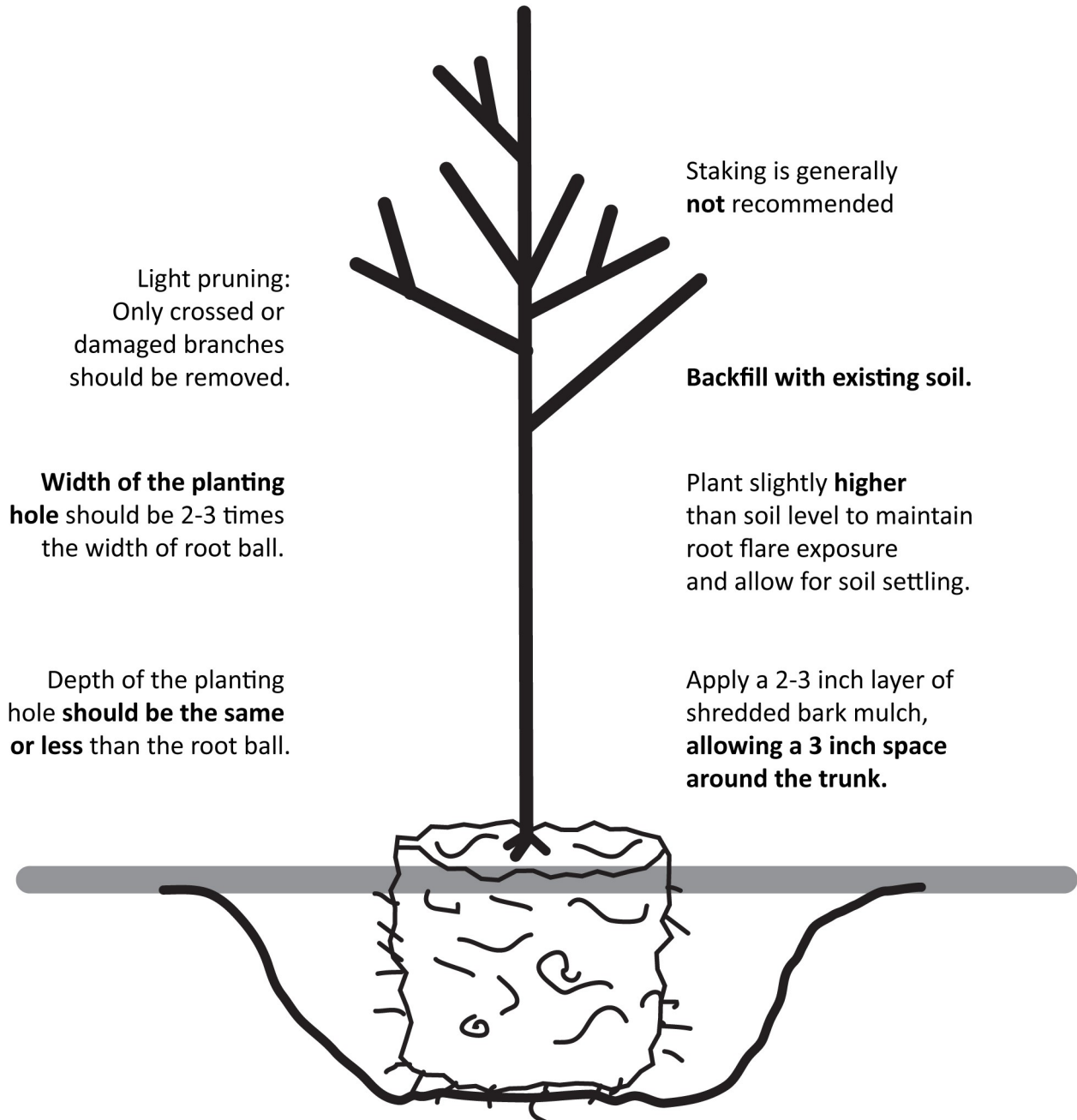
- Basic planting is best for fruit trees. See the reverse for proper planting details. Always water in thoroughly with a **root stimulator** solution.

CULTURE:

- *Proper watering is critical the first year to get your tree established.* This will necessarily be done by hand, and not an irrigation system. Maintain the application of **root stimulator** each month for the first year.
- Once your trees are established, feed in spring before bud- or leaf-break, and in fall after the leaf drop.
- For preventative care, spray **dormant oil** once in January and once in February to minimize insect or disease issues.
- If insects or disease appear to be a problem, the safest approach is to bring in samples of multiple leaves, along with clear pictures. Early detection will enable our Garden Advisors to assist you in the best way.
- Fruit trees will always attempt to set more fruit than the plant can support. *Remove all fruit the first year.* In the second year, remove 80%, and later years, you can leave about 50%. This way, long term you'll produce larger, higher quality fruit. *Consult a Garden Advisor for fruit tree pruning techniques.*
- *Be patient until the tree grows and establishes.* Remember that any fruit tree can take from 2-5 years to produce fruit, depending upon the variety you've selected.

Proper Fruit Tree Planting

To ensure healthy plants, start with **right plant for the right location**.
Once you select a tree suited for your site and its microclimate,
be sure to plant it correctly:



Speak with a Garden Advisor for questions and additional help in growing successful fruit trees.