

Pruning Peach Trees

At Planting (Figure 1)

Tree is planted in spring and is cut off at the height of 30 to 36 inches from soil.

First and Second Year (Figure 2)

Pruning is best done in late winter or early spring. During the first and second year, three to four side branches are selected to become the framework of the tree for the rest of its life. The branches selected should originate from different points on the trunk 4 to 6 inches above or below each branch in order to insure a balanced framework where one branch is not shading or rubbing against another. All other branches originating from the trunk are removed at this time.

Third Year to maturity (Figure 3)

From this time on, pruning is done each year for the purpose of maintaining this 3 to 4 branched tree in a strong, vigorous growing condition. Remove only those limbs that are growing towards the interior of the tree and/or rubbing against each other, or shading other branches.

The Mature Tree (Figure 4)

Remember – The pruning goal is to construct an open-centered, generally vase-shaped tree that has as many of its limbs and branches exposed to full sun as possible.