**FRUITING PATTERNS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR TRAINING AND PRUNING**

(compiled by Mike Chase from various ag bulletins and pamphlets)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Location of fruiting buds** | | | |  | | |
|  | **On long shoots** | | **On short shoots / spurs** | |  | | |
| **Variety** | **Laterally** | **Terminally** | **Laterally** | **Terminally** | **Spur Life**  **(In years)** | **Type of training system** | **Amount and type of pruning for mature trees** |
| Apple | minor | very minor | ------ | major | 8-10+ | central leader, modified central leader, or open center | medium, thin spurs at branch ends to manage weight load |
| Pear | minor | very minor | ------ | major | 6-8 | central leader, multiple leader, or open center | European (medium),  Asian (medium to heavy),  thin spurs at branch ends to manage weight load |
| Plum  (European) | very minor | very minor | major | major | 8-10+ | open center, modified central leader, central leader | medium, reduce “end weight” |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Peach and  Nectarine | major | ----- | minor | ----- | 1-2 | open center | heavy (1/3 to 2/3 of last year’s growth); don’t allow laterals to get too long (break); thin while pruning |
| Apricot | minor | ----- | major | ----- | 3 | open center | heavy, but don’t prune off the “sprigs” because they bear fruit; shorten to reduce “end weight”; thin while pruning |
| Plum  (Japanese) | minor | ----- | major | ----- | 6-8 | open center | heavy; shorten to reduce “end weight”; thin while pruning |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cherry, Sweet | minor | ----- | major | ----- | 6-8 | open center, modified central leader | light |
| Cherry, Tart | minor | ----- | major | ----- | 3-5 | open center, modified central leader | very light |

Note that the types of fruit trees are clustered together based on their similarity-dissimilarity to one another. That is, apples, pears, and European plum have similar general growth patterns and therefore are trained and pruned in a similar fashion, in contrast to the quite different from the way peaches, apricots, and Japanese plums grow and are pruned.