



## Goals For Pruning

There are normally two goals when pruning:

- On young trees, to encourage a strong and solid framework
- On mature trees, to maintain a manageable shape and encourage fruit production

The Best Time to Prune:

- The best time to prune apple trees is in late winter or very early spring before any new growth starts. Apples flower and produce fruit on long-lived, stubby twigs called "spurs" often called "old wood", which means we'll want to prune last year's new growth back **every** season.

To learn more about each management technique, visit our website for more information and look under **Backyard Tree Care**.

<https://www.oksir.org/backyard-tree-care/>

### OKSIR HEAD OFFICE

1450 KLO Road Kelowna BC,  
V1W 3Z4

**Phone:** 250-469-6187

**Email:** [sirinfo@oksir.org](mailto:sirinfo@oksir.org)

**Toll Free:** 1-800-363-6684



© 2022 Okanagan-Kootenay  
Sterile Insect Release Program

The SIR program is in place  
to decrease the overall  
regional pesticide use  
against the codling moth  
and protect the agricultural  
community.



Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile  
Insect Release Program

## Pruning Your Codling Moth Host Trees



## Full-Size Trees

Mature trees usually already have their shape determined and they usually just require annual maintenance.

Every Year:

- Remove broken or diseased branches, crossing limbs, and weak stems
- Remove any vertical or straight down growth
- Thin out enough new growth to allow light to filter in

## Neglected Trees

Many people will purchase a house where an apple tree was not properly maintained. The tree has become bushy and weak and will produce poor quality apples. This will require extensive corrective pruning.

**The main objective in pruning such a tree is to try to open up the interior to allow good light penetration.**

The first step is to remove all upright vigorous growing shoots at their base that are shading the interior. It is necessary to select 3 to 5 lower scaffold branches with good angles and spaced around the tree. Limbs with poor angles and excess scaffold limbs should be removed at their base. In some cases it is advisable to spread the corrective pruning over two or three seasons. When severe pruning is done in the winter, the trees should not be fertilized that spring.

## Post Prune Recovery

Prior To Hard Prune (May 2022)



July 2022



Hard Prune Complete (May 2022)



August 2022



After three months, the tree has recovered nicely with no extra care required!