

**Pruning Stone Fruit trees**  
(Plums, Peaches, Nectarines, Cherries, Almonds)  
(Mehdi Barghchi 0223008130)

**Why:**

- To reduce the size of the tree, to allow for easier picking and harvest
- To promote flowering and improved quality fruiting
- To allow more sunlight and air movement into the plant
- To remove dead, diseased, and damaged branches
- To rejuvenating trees

**When:**

- It is recommended to prune stone fruit trees in late summer after fruiting has finished, in a dry summer day

**How:**

- Clean and sanitise tools before use to reduce risk of disease transmission. Use sharp tools, have clear cut above nodes (45 degree sloping angle) and close to the main branch rather than leaving a stub.
- Protect cut wounds with a water-based paint or pruning paint to seal the wound and prevent disease (e.g. silver leaf) entering

**How:**

- Remove **Dead, Diseased, Damaged** brunches
- Remove suckers
- Remove growth into the centre of the tree
- Remove brunches below waist hight
- Remove very vigorous brunches

**Tools to use:** Loppers, Pruning saw, Secateurs

**Shape of Tree:**

- Open vase, Central leader, Trellis, Fan
- Open vase shape is recommended to allow more sunlight and air movement into the plant, to improved air movement and to reduce pest and disease problems developing.
- More light encourages even ripening and improved photosynthesis

**Notes:**

- The main reason for pruning stone fruits in summer is because they are very susceptible to diseases and dry summer time is best to reduce infection through the cut surface. It is advisable to apply pruning paste on the cut surface to reduce disease infection, especially if cutting thick brunches
- Do not prune more than 1/3 of the tree in a season