

Pears

Site Selection

Pears trees are in the apple family and should be treated about the same as apple trees. They should be planted in a well-drained soil in a sunny location. Remember that cold air drains down so low-lying areas should be avoided. A deep, loose soil is preferred. Trees should be spaced about 20 feet apart.



Planting the Tree

Plant these trees immediately! Prune any broken roots off before planting. Dig a wide hole, loosening the soil as you go. Plant the tree to the same depth as it was grown in the nursery. **Keep the graft above the soil line.** If soil is hard, add organic material to the soil as it is removed from the hole. Fill soil in around tree, shaking the tree gently to filter the soil around the roots. When hole is $\frac{3}{4}$ full, water to help soil fill in even better and tamp the soil down. Finish filling the hole and water in. Water tree a couple of times a week throughout the summer if rain is not plentiful.

Fertilizing

Fertilize young trees three times. Apply 1/3 lb. of 10-10-10 in a ring around the tree 2 weeks after planting, 6 weeks after planting and 10 weeks after planting.

Pruning

Pruning of newly planted trees is essential. At the time of planting, cut tree back to 36 inches. This is imperative for the proper formation of scaffold branches. For pruning in successive years, contact your Extension Agent for information.

Insects & Diseases

Pears are susceptible to a number of insects and diseases. The best pesticide a home- owner can use is a home orchard spray. Any brand will do but this particular product has everything you need to spray on your trees. There will be a spray schedule on the label.