

## Planting Pear Trees

Pear trees need to be planted in locations where the ground is slightly elevated and sloping. Like apple trees, they are susceptible to the frosty air that settles in the lower lying areas during spring. Pear trees can thrive in a wide range of soil types. Although, they do not survive in areas that are not well drained and stay continually damp. Test the soil and apply lime as need to raise the pH to around 6.5.

Pear trees do need a second variety pear tree to cross pollinate.

### **Planting:**

Plant pear trees in full sun with approximately 20 to 25 foot spacing. Any graft or bud union should be 2 to 3 inches above the soil surface. The hole should be large enough to allow the roots to spread out naturally. Fill the hole just over half way and lightly tap then soak with 1 to 2 gallons of water. Fill in the rest of the hole, NOT leaving a water basin around the base of the tree. Apply a good layer of mulch.

Cut back the plants to 3.5 to 4 feet tall and remove all side branches. Basically you want the plant to look like a young whip (one long branch).

### **Fertilizing:**

Do not fertilize at planting. Allow the trees to settle in for 3-4 weeks. Then, apply ½ pound of 10-10-10 by lightly spreading it in a 2 foot circle from the base of the plant. Water thoroughly.

Note: over fertilizing can create excessive growth which causes the trees to become more susceptible to fire blight.

### **Pruning:**

Like apple trees, pear trees require a substantial amount of care and for good crop production, they should be pruned properly. Here is a link to the Clemson University Extension site with pictures and detailed information on the correct way to prune these trees.

<http://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheets/HGIC1351.htm>