

## FORMATIVE PRUNING OF 1-YEAR (MAIDEN) FRUIT TREES

All our fruit trees over 1-year old have been trained to a particular form, perhaps a half-standard, cordon or espalier.

1-year trees have no training, they are what we call maidens, and the training and pruning you need to do depends on the form or shape of tree that you require, some suggestions are outlined briefly below. This is by no means comprehensive, and we advise novices to read up the appropriate technique in a book, (The Fruit Expert is very good).

### STEP-OVER

Buy a 1-year tree on very dwarfing rootstock, M27 for apples and Quince 'C' for pears, and cut back to around 40cm, (15"), when you plant it. Train the top two laterals that grow subsequently in opposite directions and remove all the others. Treat as a one tier espalier thereafter, (see espalier training page). Suitable only for apples and pears.

### CORDONS

Buy a 1-year tree on a dwarfing rootstock, M9 for apples and Quince 'C' for pears, cut back to around 60cm, (24"), when planting, (or the first dormant season). This will encourage lower growing laterals. In subsequent years tie in the central leader and prune back side laterals to 3 or 4 buds in August to form fruiting spurs. Suitable only for apples and pears. ('U' and 'W' cordons are more complex forms of cordon training, taking several years to train and develop.)

### ESPALIERS

Please see separate page in information section.

### FANS

Buy a 1-year tree on a dwarfing or semi-dwarfing rootstock, Quince 'A' for pears; Gisella 5 for cherries and Pixy for plums and cut back to around 45cm, (18"), when planting. This will encourage lower growing laterals to grow, which will form the structure of the fan. In subsequent years prune back these laterals as required to form the shape of the fan. Suitable for plums, cherries and pears.

### QUARTER STANDARDS

Buy a 1-year tree on a dwarfing or semi-dwarfing rootstock, M9 or M26 for apples; Gisella 5 for cherries; Pixy for plums and Quince 'C' for pears, cut back to around 60cm, (24"), when planting. This will encourage lower growing laterals and a clear stem of 30-40cm, (12"-18"). In subsequent years prune back these laterals as required to form the shape of the tree.

### HALF STANDARD

By far the most common form of training, they have approximately 1 metre, (36"), of clear stem before the branches develop. Buy a 1-year tree on a semi-vigorous rootstock, MM106 for apples; Gisella 5 or Colt for cherries; St. Julien or Pixy for plums and Quince 'A' for pears, cut back to around 120cm, (48"), when planting, also removing the lower laterals where present. This will encourage laterals to grow above 1 metre, in subsequent years prune back these laterals to form the shape of the tree.