

Pear Pruning Explained

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Pruning is not only to remove shoots, limbs and branches !

It is also the aim of pruning is restore the balance between the roots and the above ground part of the tree.



Growth is determined by the vigour of:

- THE ROOTSTOCK
- the variety
- the type of tree
- the planting distance
- the pruning system

The Rootstock :

Quince A , Quince Adams , Quince C, Quince Eline

- all influence tree volume

Quince Adams

- can influence productivity e.g. on Doyenné du Comice

Quince Eline

- can influence (better) fruit size and smoother fruit skin



Tree type

- Never plant a non-feathered tree
- Plant trees with at least 5 – 6 feathers
- For the V system – 4 to 5 well-balanced limbs

The Planting distance !

Equation = Variety X Rootstock X Soil
(On Quince Adams , C , and Eline)

- Inter-Row distance Min. 3,5 m.
- Tree in-row distance Min. 1,2 m.

(3,5 m. inter-rows needed for the light interception, for bin transport and for spray-mow combinations.)

For single rows :

In-row planting distance:

- One leader tree : 1,2 m.
- Double leader tree : 1,2 m.
- Three leader tree : 1,5 m.
- V. system : 1,2 m.

Time of Pruning !

Winter time

- Late Winter (to save flower-buds)

Summer pruning:

- only remove shoots in the top
- or after big branches have been removed the previous winter.

Trunk intervention !

Always apply double intervention (*chainsaw cuts*)

- Distance between cuts : 30 – 50 cm.
- Cut depth - max. 50 % of trunk diameter.
- Cut left side – right side thinking of the predominant wind direction
- Where?: just below the lowest branches



Root Pruning !

WHY?

- To reduce heavy growth in general
- To reduce heavy growth after a crop failure
- To bring young trees into production earlier
- Timing : early spring Europe = March; Australia = September
- Depth: 50 – 80 cm. Angle : 45° - 90°



Conclusion 1

- Light is important for flower-buds!
- Too many branches result in more thinning work
- Too many branches result in only pears on the outside of the tree
- Keep small fruiting branches only on the outside tips of the tree
- Don't prune young trees too severely
= bigger tree, which needs more room and a greater planting distance

Conclusion 2

- More pruning hours :
 - = better fruit size
 - = less thinning work
- Less Pruning:
 - = Too many branches = more skin damage
 - = Pears on old branches = more russet
- Don't plant pears closer than 3.5m X 1.2m
- Pear pruning time should equate to 70-100 hours/ha.