



Caring For Asian Pears



Choosing a Site:

Asian pears bloom very early and are susceptible to late spring frost damage. If late spring frosts happen in your area, plant your trees where cold air will run downhill away from them.

Asian pears thrive in soils that have only average amounts of fertility, water, and drainage. They also require great air circulation.

Healthy trees will grow about two feet a year for the first three years. With fruit production the desired growth is one foot a year. If your trees are not growing this fast, it would be wise to have your soil tested for fertility. By applying a balanced fertilizer, like Dr. Earth Fruit Tree Fertilizer in the later winter or early spring, before the buds emerge, you may have better growth.

Planting:

Plant bareroot trees as soon as possible in late winter/early spring. Potted trees can be planted any time soil can be worked. Soak the roots of your bareroot tree in Root Stimulator mixed with water while you prepare the hole.

Dig the hole wide enough for the roots to spread outward and downward (about 1 ½' x 1 ½'). If the soil is heavy clay, mix compost with the soil (1/4 compost: 3/4 soil). Plant the tree so that the uppermost roots are just below the soil line and the graft union is above the soil line. If you wish to apply a slow release fertilizer, like Dr. Earth Fruit Tree fertilizer or Espoma Bio-Tone Starter Plus, you could do so now mixing fertilizer in with the soil, or you can apply fertilizer 4-6 weeks later around the drip line of the tree. Fill planting hole with soil mix, being sure there are no air gaps around roots. Put a stake about 4 inches from the trunk and attach tree trunk to stake with chain lock (never use wire or string). Prune out any crossing branches or overcrowded branches and prune broken branches back to a bud facing outward. Water your tree to get rid of any air pockets in soil and thoroughly moisten soil. Then pour the Root Stimulator mixed water that you soaked the roots in over the root area. To prevent sun scald, paint the trunk with a white latex paint slightly diluted with water from the soil line to the lowest branches.

Pollination:

To ensure pollination make sure to plant cultivars of Asian or European Pears whose bloom periods overlap. By planting trees 8ft.-15ft. apart cross pollination will be more likely to happen. Asian pears tend to over bear and produce small fruit. This is best solved by thinning. No more than one fruit should be allowed to develop per fruit cluster. Pull the fruit extra off in the early spring when they are small, keeping one fruit on each cluster and spacing clusters 4-6" apart.

Continued...

Pruning:

Here are some basic rules to achieve success: First create an open center. Remove the tip from the central trunk to promote side branching. Then prune away all but three or four of the major limbs growing from the central trunk to provide evenly spaced branches strong enough to hold the ripening fruit. Remove any weak shoots that arise from the base and limbs of the tree. The removal of these weak shoots will help against diseases and insects. Pruning of young trees will delay the fruiting, so it's best to prune your tree after the third year of harvest.

**Scan this QRCode to have this information
available on your smart phone [pdf] >>**



5470 NE Hwy 20, Corvallis 97330 • (541) 753-6601 • garlandnursery.com