



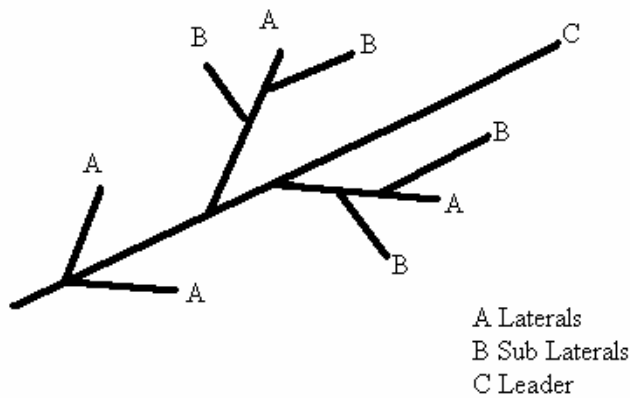
Groves Guide to...

Pruning Fruit Trees 1

Taken from www.grovesnurseries.co.uk

By Steve Ward

Before we start pruning make sure you have the tools for the job; a good pair of secateurs, I recommend Felco, these should last you a lifetime and for larger branches a pruning saw, again use a reputable make. Always make cuts to an outward facing bud 5mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ ") above the bud



• **Figure 1**
Basic terms referred to during pruning

Apples and Pears

- **1st winter**

Cut back the main leader to 25cm (10") above a bud, facing the opposite way to last years growth. Cut side branches to half their length above a bud.

- **2nd winter**

As with the first winter prune the main header to 25cm (10"). Shorten new side branches to half their length and older side branches a third.

- **Subsequent winters**

When the tree reaches your desired height, usually 2-3metres (7-8') cut the main leader back to this height every winter. If there are too many branches remove some and also thin spurs if needed

- **1st Summer**

In mid August cut any laterals back to 2-3 buds or around 7-9cm (3-4")

- **Subsequent Summers**

Cut laterals to 2-3 buds and sub laterals to one bud above the basal cluster.



Note: Tip Bearers

Apples which are tip bearers should not be pruned other than occasional whole branches to stimulate fast growth.