



Question of the Week

Q: Is it too late to prune fruit trees?

A: February through April is an excellent time to prune fruit trees. Growers prune fruit trees to encourage new growth, to allow light to penetrate through the canopy, and to create the structure that will allow the tree to bear a load of fruit. Most pruning cuts remove some potential for fruit production, but pruning is necessary to encourage vigorous new growth that will allow the tree to set more fruit buds the following year.

All fruit-tree pruning begins by removing the three Ds: dead, damaged and diseased wood, as well as limbs that may rub on another, causing damage.

The best time to prune fruit trees in New Hampshire:

Apple- <i>February to April</i>	Prune before start of growth.
Peach- <i>March to late April</i>	Prune before blossoms show color.
Cherry- <i>March to April</i>	Prune before start of growth.
Plum- <i>March to April</i>	Prune before start of growth.
Pear- <i>February to April</i>	Prune before growth begins.

For more information about how to prune and care for fruit trees, call the number below or check out the tree fruit fact sheets at http://extension.unh.edu/Pubs/PubsHG.htm#HG_Svt

Got questions? UNH Cooperative Extension's Family, Home & Garden Education Center Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1-877-398-4769, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., or Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. You can also email us at answers@unh.edu