

A large, dense tree with pink blossoms is the central focus of the image. The tree is in full bloom, with a thick canopy of light pink flowers. It stands in a green field under a bright, slightly overcast sky. The background shows a line of trees and a distant horizon.

Summer Pruning for Fruit Trees

Presented by:

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Before we Prune- Fruit Thinning

- Right now is a good time to start thinning fruit.
- Related to fruit load and tree Physiology.
- Tree leaf to fruit ratio

OVERVIEW

- Purpose of Summer Pruning
- Physiology of Summer Pruning
- Pruning Approach
- Q&A

SUMMER PRUNING PURPOSE

- Maintain good form/size/height of mature trees (4 years old or older)
- Remove excess growth
- Increase sunlight to lower fruiting wood to maintain productivity
- Continue to balance tree growth
- Continue to train young trees

Physiology of Summer Pruning

What happens when you prune in the summer?

- Remove leaves...so....
- Reduce photosynthesis...so...
- Less sugar/carbohydrate production...so...
- If pruning before harvest?
 - Smaller fruit
 - Less sweetness
 - Longer ripening period
- Any summer pruning: reduced root growth

Physiology of Summer Pruning

What happens when you prune in the summer?

- Remove leaves...so....
- More light penetration...so...
- Better fruit color-up (2-4 weeks needed)
- And...potential for sunburn – branches and fruit!
- And...more light on lower branches

SUMMER PRUNING MATURE TREES

- Prune 1 – 3 times per season
- Start in May (now!)
- Up to September for most vigorous trees
- Prune before or after fruit has ripened
- Can intentionally reduce fruit load



SUMMER PRUNING MATURE TREES

- Remove unwanted vigorous, upright shoots
- Remove suckers at base of tree
- Thin out interior of tree to increase sunlight penetration and air circulation
- Preserve sufficient leaf canopy or protect against sunburn
- “Bring in” tree (reduce sideways spread) if needed





Summer Pruning (Plum)

Before



After



Before and After





MATURE FRUIT BUSHES OR FRUIT TREE HEDGES

- Cut back new growth above selected tree height 2-3 times during growing season
- Thinning cuts for sunlight penetration

1st (of 2) Fruit Bush Pruning May 8, 2016

Before

After



RESOURCES

UC Davis websites:

<http://homeorchard.ucdavis.edu>

<http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu>

www.ipm.ucdavis.edu

UC-Riverside:

<http://citrusvariety.ucr.edu>

California Rare Fruit Growers:

<http://crfg.org>

A large, dense tree with pink blossoms is the central focus of the image. The tree is set in a green field under a blue sky with light clouds. The overall scene is bright and clear.

QUESTIONS?