**Winter Pruning Checklist**

**Before you cut…**

Observe the whole picture/tree:

Form?

Objective?

What kind of fruit?

Where do the fruit buds develop?

Where do I want my fruit to hang?

Prune

with

fearless

patience

**Cut…what?**

**The 4 D’s:**

*Dead, Diseased, Damaged & Disoriented*

**Prune ONE scaffold at a time:**

Find the leader and begin there.

Decide if the scaffold needs to grow more or be shorter:

For *more*- head leader

For *shorter*- remove and cut to weaker leader

**Everything behind the leader is a lateral, so treat it like one.**

How many fruit can really hang on that lateral?

Pommes: shorten into two-year or older wood or let be.

Stones:

Peaches- stub one-inch every lateral

shorten remaining laterals 4”-6”

Plums & Cots- stub one-inch every third lateral

shorten remaining laterals 8”=12”

**When you think**

**you are done…**

**you are probably done!**

**Annual Fruit Tree Care**

Central Coast of CA

**Winter**

-prune trees once dormant

-plant new trees as early as you can

-apply an organic fertilizer if the tree needs it

-install drip irrigation

**Spring**

-thin fruit once marble size

-train young trees

-begin watering program before soil dries out

-GOPHERS! Start trapping before they take over

-apply a round of fertilizer to weak trees

**Summer**

-harvest early varieties

-remove damaged/infested fruit from trees

-summer prune in July/Aug.

-keep up the watering

**Fall-**

-harvest

-orchard floor clean up

-record the year’s orchard happenings

-sow cover crops

-apply compost/mulch