**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