

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO DWARF MINIATURE & PATIO FRUIT TREES

Fruit trees love sunshine and this is true for the smaller growing miniature and patio fruits as well. The more hours of sun you can give then the better the results will be - you will find the fruit is sweeter and ripens with more colour; remember that it will probably be earlier in season too - protected patio's may have a microclimate that is warmer than the surrounding area. If you have an area that is more shaded then some varieties can still cope and do well - notably the Morello cherry. Lastly try to select a spot that is out of the wind as there is nothing more irritating than continually having to stand up trees in pots that have blown over! 'Morello Cherry Tree' – this is a hardy doer & one of the few fruit trees that can take some shade or a cooler position.



Patio Fruit Trees For Pots And Containers

These naturally dwarfing trees are ideal for containerisation; just make sure you select the dwarfing trees and an appropriately sized container of not less than 24". The trees prefer you use a Loam based compost such as John Innes no 2 or a similar type, it's better than peat-based compost for fruit trees in containers. Make sure you feed - and water - regularly and, with a little care your apples, plums, or cherries can stay in pots for years. In many ways they are easier to care for than garden grown trees because they can more readily be protected from pests, birds and worse weather.

The obvious home to your dwarf fruit trees is in an easy to manage container or pot, which we have provided for you. Observe a few pointers and your trees will thrive in such an environment.

First, the minimum size is a good 24" or so. Fill it with a loam based potting compost such as John Innes no 2 or a similar brand your local stockist can recommend. Never use garden soil. Peat based compost is ok but tends to lose it's 'body' sooner than loam based.

Any type of container is suitable, plastic, clay, whatever. As long as it has adequate drainage - no tree likes to sit in water.

WATERING is the number one essential; every day during the growing season (Growing season is May to September) unless it has really, really rained – and you will soon learn that it needs to rain A LOT to do any good when it comes to trees in pots because 'ordinary' rain may not penetrate the compost, or it gets shielded by the umbrella of leaf and branches above. So, try to get into a routine and water once a day – early or late are the best times. Pour the water on to the compost direct with the watering can or hose.



Feeding needn't be a chore; you can use a foliar feed if you want to, but this will need applying every fortnight or so. By far the easiest method, is to apply osmocote granules once every Spring. This type of fertilizer is slow release, so you get a steady trickle of nutrients right through the season.

Pruning Dwarf Plum, Cherry, Apple Patio Fruit Trees



This can often be made a quite complicated and convoluted subject; undoubtedly some pruning will be essential to your trees but as long as some basics are observed then it will provide you with good results. There is a lot more information that the less experienced can safely leave to the specialists. When you get the tree, it will likely have one straight 'leader', cleve the leader branch at the top, or it may have two or three which will need cleaving. One or all of these should be shortened after planting, by about one third of their current length. This will encourage greater bushiness and bud bearing spurs.

Any lower branches that you don't want can be removed until you have a 'trunk clearance' of the desired length. You don't have to remove lower branches but mostly it results in a shapelier tree and it's easier to weed beneath, plus these lower laterals don't tend to be great fruit producers anyway. Cut them off clean at the trunk.

In subsequent seasons more strong growing upright branches will likely be produced. Again, they can and should be cut back by one third. All pruning is best carried out over winter. These are the basics that will get you by and help the tree to produce fruits early in life.

Terms and Conditions for Todmorden Town Council's My Tree Promise initiative

To qualify for a free tree from Todmorden Town Council, the following criteria must be met.

- Applicant must have signed up to the Council's Climate Pledge prior to applying (see website for details or email admin@todmorden-tc.gov.uk)
- Applicant must be a resident of Todmorden
- Applicant must be over the age of 18
- Only one tree per household
- Trees will be allocated on a first come first served basis
- The tree must be situated within Todmorden and on land which is owned by or controlled by the applicant (e.g. Applicant's garden)
- Evidence of a suitable growing area such as an area with some natural light (a picture of the location must be provided with the application).
- The tree must not be used to fulfil a landscape condition imposed with any planning permission or enforcement action.
- It is the responsibility of the applicant for undertaking to look after the tree in the future.
- The tree should ideally be visible from the road or public footpath/bridleway.
- A picture of the tree is provided in its new home that the Council can use for promotional purposes
- Trees will be delivered on set days, for which the date would be provided in advance, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to make sure that someone be available to receive the tree, pot and compost. (Provisional delivery dates will be in week commencing 17th October 2022)
- Todmorden Town Council reserve the right to remove the tree provided if any of the about terms and conditions are not met.

HOW TO RETURN YOUR APPLICATION

By Post or Hand To: Todmorden Town Council, Tod College, Burnley Road, Todmorden, OL14 7BX or **By Email (scan or screenshot) to:** admin@todmorden-tc.gov.uk

You can also find a pdf version of the application form on our website www.todmorden-tc.gov.uk. You can complete this and return it to us by email. Follow the My Tree Promise Link on the home page.

MY TREE PROMISE APPLICATION FORM



Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Location where the tree will be placed (*brief text description & photo must be provided*)

- I confirm that I have signed up to the Todmorden Town Council Climate Pledge
- I confirm that the location provided on this application is owned/controlled by myself, the applicant
- I confirm that I will look after the tree to the best of my ability ensuring it is watered, pruned and cared for

Todmorden Town Council will provide, on a first come first served basis, a dwarf fruit tree, please number the tree types below in order of preference. This doesn't guarantee your first choice, but the Council will endeavour to match each applicant with their preferred tree.

Tree Type	Preference (1-3)
Apple	
Plum	
Cherry	

Signed: _____

Print: _____

Date: _____

Office Use Only _____

- Meets the required criteria
- Picture/evidence of the trees proposed location has been provided
- Pledge received

Date application form received: _____