



PRUNING TERMS

1. **Bearing tree** – a fruit tree that has reached the age of capable producing fruits annually.
2. **Branch** – a shoot that has developed to maturity and has passed through one or more dormant seasons.
3. **Bud** – the initial of an unelongated branch or tip of a shoot. A bud may develop into leaves or a vegetable shoot or into flowers and their subtending parts. It may be terminal as at the end of a branch or shoot, or lateral as in the axil of a leaf.
4. **Bud union** – the point of attachment between the scion cultivar and the stock or rootstock upon which it is budded or grafted.
5. **Crotch, crotch angle** – the angle between two contingent shoots or branches near the point of their union.
6. **Cultivar** – a term that is now used in place of the older term, *variety*, when designing a specific horticultural variation in plant species.
7. **Deshooting** – the practice of removing young shoots from a tree or other plant during the growing season for the purpose of aiding in the training of the plant.
8. **Disbudding** – the removal of dormant buds, a practice sometimes followed on newly planted or young trees in the selection of buds for development into scaffold branches.
9. **Dwarf trees** – generally, cultivars that have been propagated on a size-controlling rootstock, such as Malling IX in the case of an apple or quince, and produces a small-sized tree.
10. **Espalier** – a wall or framework upon which a tree or other plants may be trained; or the shape to which a plant is trained to be more or less picturesque as well as productive.
11. **Fruiting wood** – branches of a tree or other plant carrying flower buds and the potential for bearing fruit.
12. **Growth regulator** – a chemical substance that may inhibit or accelerate vegetative growth, or may affect the initiation of floral or vegetative buds, or in some way alter the normal growth habit of the plant; the substance may occur naturally in plants or it may be formulated and applied to plants for the purpose of producing desired effects upon growth habits.
13. **Heading back** – usually refers to cutting away a portion of the terminal growth of a branch; it may be an upright branch or on growing laterally.
14. **Hedging** – a term applied to pruning by mechanical devices which cut away, in bulk fashion, portions of the tops and sides of trees.
15. **Malling rootstocks** – a group of rootstock classified at the East Malling Research Station in England so that they represent various degrees of size control of the trees of cultivars propagated on them.
16. **Old wood** – in pruning, this refers to branches that have been productive of bearing for a number of years, generally for more than 5 or 6.
17. **One-year wood** – wood of branches that were produced by the previous season's growth; a term generally used during the dormant season.
18. **Pome fruit** – fruits are classified into specific types according to structure; the pome fruit are all similar in structure, although appearances may be quite different, are represented by the apple, pear and quince.



19. **Rootstock** – the root system and portion of attached stem upon which another plant is propagated (budded or grafted).
20. **Scaffold branch** – one of the branches comprising the basic framework of a tree or other plant; primarily scaffolds are those arising directly from the main trunk of the tree.
21. **Semi-dwarf tree** – a cultivar which has been propagated upon a specific size-controlling that produces a mature tree somewhat smaller than a standard tree and somewhat larger than a dwarf tree, rootstock most often used for this purpose are Malling VII and II, Malling Merton 106, 104 and 111.
22. **Shoot** – vegetative growth produced from a dormant bud which possesses leaves, generally the growth developing during a current season.
23. **Spreader** – a short piece of wood or metal used to insert between a lateral branch and the main trunk of a young tree for the purposes of producing a more horizontal growth habit of the branches.
24. **Spur** – short, thick growth upon which flowers and fruits are born, typically on most apple, apricot, cherry and pear trees.
25. **Spur type tree** – most often used in reference to recent mutations of certain apple cultivars that produce fruiting spurs earlier in the life of the tree and more abundant per foot of branch-growth.
26. **Standard tree** – commonly refers to a tree that has been propagated by grafting or budding a cultivar on a seedling rootstock.
27. **Stone fruit** – a specific type of fruit classified according to structure: refers primarily to peaches, plums, apricots, cherries, and similar fruits with a stone layer surrounding the seed.
28. **Sucker** – a rapidly growing shoot arising from a larger branch, usually from a latent bud: also refers to shoots arising from the rootstock below the bud or graft union.
29. **Thin wood** – refers to branches of rather small diameter in relation to overall length; these usually develop in the more shaded portions of a tree and from the lower sides of larger branches and are generally unfruitful or produce small poorly colored fruits.
30. **Thinning out** – refers to the removal of branches in a portion of the tree or throughout the tree or other plant for purposes of permitting greater light and spray penetration into all areas of the plant.
31. **Water sprout** – a term applied to vigorous, succulent shoots arising indiscriminately and generally on the larger branches of a tree, they are often produced in large numbers just below a pruning cut.
32. **Whip** – a single unbranched shoot that has developed from budding or grafting a cultivar on a rootstock and grown one year in the nursery row.
33. **Wound** – the cut surface remaining on the plant where a branch has been removed by pruning; it may also refer to any other open surfaces on the plant.
34. **Wound dressing** – a proprietary compound especially made for treating cut surfaces on plants for purposes of reducing the drying of the exposed plant tissues and protecting the open areas from invasion by infectious organisms.