HANDY HINTS FOR YOUR FRUITING AND FLOWERING TREES

Before selecting your tree, assess the space you have, remembering the size the tree will finish up growing to.

Planting:
Cultivate the area to be planted to a depth of approx. 35cm, working in any good compost matter. Prepare a shallow hole with ample space to spread the roots, cutting off any damaged roots. Cover the roots, leaving the soil a little higher than the surrounding soil. Tramp down to form a shallow basin for water. Provide a firm stake for support until your tree becomes more established.
Fertilize after new growth appears, with a complete fertilizer in a circle about 40cm out from the trunk of the tree. A subsequent feeding with fertilizer each year is required. Your local nurseryman will be able to recommend a good fertilizer for you.
Peaches and Nectarines should be sprayed with Kocide or a similar mixture in early winter and then again in early spring prior to bud burst, to control "curly leaf".

PLEASE NOTE: If you are unable to plant your tree immediately after purchase, make sure that the roots are kept covered, and not allowed to dry out before planting.
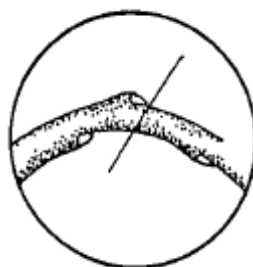
Pruning & Shaping:
All fruit trees, and most deciduous flowering trees, need to be pruned when planting to build up a strong frame of branches. Growth should be cut back within 10-15cms from where the young tree has branched, at an outward pointing bud. See diagram
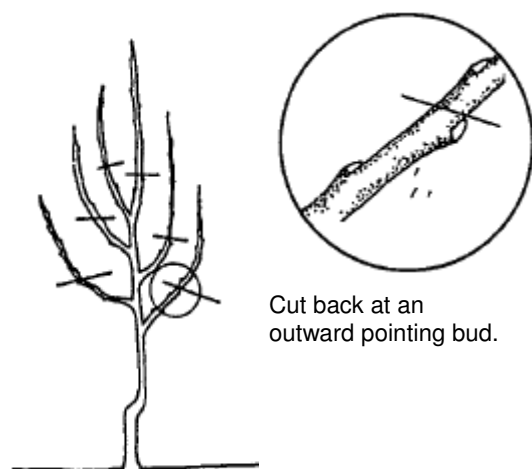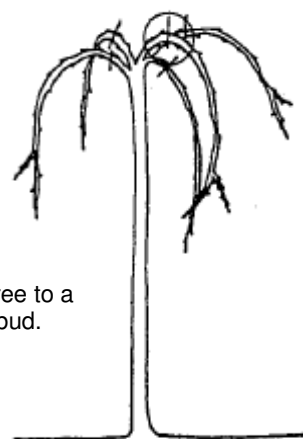
The general rule to follow would be:
Remove 4/5 of growth at planting, ¼ to 1/3 off growth every subsequent year, keeping in mind that the fruit mostly bears on last season's growth. Also the centre of the tree should be kept open to allow sunlight and warmth to ripen the fruit.
Your flowering trees should not be pruned until after flowering, as flowers are borne on last season's branches.

Prune your weeping tree to a top, outward pointing bud.

Cut back at an outward pointing bud.

Weeping Trees:
To achieve the best from your weeping trees, it is essential to shape your tree in its early years. Pruning your weeping tree to a top, outward point bud - as shown in the diagram, will ensure that the tree grows to the desired "umbrella" shape.