



Multi-budded Fruit Trees

Mt. San Antonio
College
Horticulture Unit

"college educated plants"



Do you need more variety and longer harvest from a limited space? The multiple-budded fruit tree is the answer! Multiple-budded ("Multi-budded") fruit trees will give you several fine selections of tree-ripened fruit from the space of a single tree. Offering varieties suited to many tastes throughout Southern California.

- Always plant the smallest limb (the "weakest" bud) to the south/southwest to insure that it gets plenty of sun.
- Cut back the strongest growing varieties by 2/3rds. Cut back branches.
- Cut back the weakest variety by 1/2 — or not at all.
- During the summer, watch the growth-rate of the smaller limbs to determine if pruning is necessary at that time. If the weakest variety is 1/2 the size of the others, it's best not to cut it back.
- **Do Not!** let one variety take over - or one or more of the the others may fail. Prune back the more aggressive limbs. Summer-prune when necessary in order to let sunlight get to **all** the developing varieties. The primary reason for the failure of multi-budded fruit trees is letting one variety take over which can cause the others to fail. This is most often due to lack of summer pruning when needed. remember to keep even sunlight available to all the developing selections.
- After the third season, maintain the multiple-budded tree so that each fruit-type grows in balance with the others.

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