

# WHEN to Pick Fruit



**For the Easiest Guide - Refer to the hanging ID sign in the tree!**

**\*Look for color and time of year as indicated\***

**Taste one! If it's tasty – keep picking. If not – then wait longer.**



## EUROPEAN PEARS

### DETACH WHEN TILTED

- Most mature, ready to ripen pears will detach when "tilted" to a horizontal position

### PICK EARLY – BEFORE RIPE

- Look for background color change from dark-green to yellow-green
- Pears ripen from the inside out. If left to ripen on the tree - they develop a coarse, mealy texture and can rot inside

### QUICKLY COOL TO RIPEN

- Once picked, cool them down in refrigerator, if possible to ripen nicely
- Ripening at room temp. will produce lower quality fruit



## APPLES & ASIAN PEARS

### PICK WHEN RIPE

- Look for correct color, ease of separation, firmness, smell, and flavor

### DROPPING OF SOUND FRUIT

- When a few sound apples drop to the ground, the apples on the tree are nearly mature

### STORE SOUND FRUIT ONLY

- Separate bruised and damaged fruit and use it quickly
- Store only non-blemished fruit



As always when harvesting –

***Take some and leave some for your neighbors!***

# HOW to Pick Fruit



1. Hold fruit in hand

2. Gently twist up fruit to horizontal position  
(Do not pull down)

*\*Mature fruits will easily separate from the tree.  
If it does not easily separate – it probably needs  
more time to ripen on the tree.*

## DON'T SHAKE THE TREE

- Fallen fruit causes bruising

## WHAT TO DO WITH FALLEN FRUIT?

- Fallen, but unblemished fruit, should be separated
- Okay for eating fresh or processing
- Do not store it for long term

## FREQUENCY OF HARVEST

- Fruit will ripen faster on the outside of the tree
- Check back every few days for ripe fruit to harvest



## Materials to Use when Harvesting:

- Orchard ladder
- Pole picker
- Plastic clamshells or Ziplock bags for berries
- Wooden peck baskets for fruits
- Harvest apron



**\*Cool Immediately After Harvest for Best Storage Potential\***

As always when harvesting –

***Take some and leave some for your neighbors!***