



# NORTH HAVEN *Gardens*

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## EZ Fruit Tree Care

**Fruit tree care will vary depending on the type and variety of tree; however there are some pretty basic rules to go by:**

- **Fertilization:** Feed in the spring just before bud break. At planting or the first year don't fertilize, wait until the second year. In the Dallas area we have a more clay type soil so our basic requirement will be for mostly nitrogen; we usually have enough phosphorous and potash in our soil without adding any more. An application of 20% nitrogen (21-0-0) will be adequate. Follow label instructions for any type of tree.
- For iron deficiency, chelated iron at the label rate is effective.
- **Water:** Apply enough water to wet the soil to a depth of 12". Trickle or drip irrigation is the recommended method. In case of extended wet periods wait about 2 weeks before starting.
- **Insect and Disease control:** The safest approach is to bring a sample by for us to look at. Because there are so many possible problems, we won't know how to suggest a control until we can view the problem.
- Training and pruning problems are somewhat more involved. If you have a problem with these see Texas Agricultural Extension Service Bulletin B-5079\*.
- Remember that on any fruit tree, depending on variety, it can take from 2-5 years to produce fruit. The key is good culture and patience.
- **Cultural Practices:** Remove any diseased or dead limbs. Keep areas clean and weed free. The hoe, rake and saw are still the preferred weapons in this war.