Applicant Checklist
What you need to prepare your fruit & nut tree project

- **Site Assessment**: Conduct a site assessment. Do this before the ground freezes and preferably before the leaves fall. [Click here](#) for a downloadable tool.

- **Planting Plan**: Based on your site assessment develop an initial site plan for planting your trees/shrubs. This is best accomplished with a visual layout so you can visualize tree/shrub spacing and placement on the property. [Click here](#) for some tips on mapping out your site.

- **List of Trees**: Based on your site assessment, basic research, and discussions with your team, develop the list of fruit and nut trees/shrubs you plan to add to your site. Fruit and nut tree catalogs should provide helpful information. See below for additional resources to support your selection.

- **Site Improvements**: Based on your site assessment and plans, determine what site improvements are needed to support your fruit and nut tree/shrub plantings. Some examples may include: irrigation, soil amending, or fencing.

- **Budget**: Develop a budget for your fruit and nut trees/shrubs in addition to any supplies or site improvements needed for long-term successful tree/shrub planting and care.

- **List of Stakeholders**: Who do you need to help? Develop your list of people and community partners to involve now and as the project progresses. Examples: fruit/nut tree expert, people who will help plant your trees/shrubs, people who will care for the trees/shrubs, people who will use the produce.

- **Care Plan**: Develop an initial care plan. Consider who will care for trees consistently through the various seasons and for key events like pruning and harvesting.

**Other resources to support you in your planning process:**

- Watch our webinar recording on [Fruit & Nut Tree Planting & Care](#) with fruit and nut tree expert Jacob Holzberg-Pill, including site considerations, basic site planting and care tips, and in-depth fruit and nut tree and shrub profiles.

- Review these resources from Michigan State University: [Considerations for Growing Backyard Small Fruit](#) & [Considerations for Growing Backyard Tree Fruit](#), including key considerations and helpful charts with site and cultural considerations for growing different fruiting trees and shrubs (i.e. mature sizes, soil requirements, winter hardiness, first harvest, pollination needs, etc.).

- Dive into the [Cornell Guide to Growing Fruit at Home](#) with in-depth site consideration and fruit tree cultivar information.

- Check into [Green Works](#), the Vermont Nursery & Landscape Association and their member map for suggestions about where to find prices/availability of trees.

*Contact us with any questions: michelle (at) vtgardens.org*