

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](mailto:michelle@vtgardens.org)