

PLUMPTON COLLEGE



Plumpton College

PLAN AND PLANT AN ORCHARD

Any one who is interested in planting a new orchard, including farm diversification, community orchards, or school orchards. The course will include an outdoor practical tree planting element. See Course Structure 1 below.

FRUIT TREE PRUNING AND ORCHARD MANAGEMENT

Any one who is interested in pruning fruit trees and the management of community orchards, or school orchards. The course will include a discussion on the main elements of pruning and a practical tree pruning session. See Course Structure 2 below.

No previous experience needed for either course. Each is a one day course. 9.30am – 4.00pm.

Course Structure

1. Indoor classroom lecture

- Site selection (aspect, slope, soil)
- Fruit varieties
- Tree form (Bush, Standard, etc)
- Pollination groups
- Rootstock
- Sourcing trees (suppliers and storing trees before planting)

Outdoor site walk

- Common pests and diseases
- Methods of pest control
- Identifying diseased trees
- Deer damage
- Conservation and wildlife benefits

Outdoor practical

- Distance apart, sighting in trees with bamboo canes
- Method of digging holes
- Planting depth, posts, ties, mulches, composts, rabbit protection etc
- Monthly management

2. Indoor classroom lecture

- Why pruning is necessary
- Formative pruning of young trees
- Growth Characteristics of apples and pears
- Pruning tools
- Pruning techniques
- Basic orchard management

Outdoor practical

- Practice pruning cuts with secateurs and pruning saws
- Removal of dead, diseased and dying wood
- Formative pruning
- Removal of large branches
- Tying down shoots
- Basic orchard management
- Protection of trees from sheep

For information on dates and cost:-

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www.foodfarmingforestry.co.uk