

# Fruit Care Guide : Persimmon



Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Amend Soil											
	Spray (If needed)										
Prune after Harvest							Summer Pruning (As Needed)				
					Fertilize Young Trees			Fertilize Young Trees			
					Fertilize Mature Trees						
Remove old fruit											
			Irrigation								

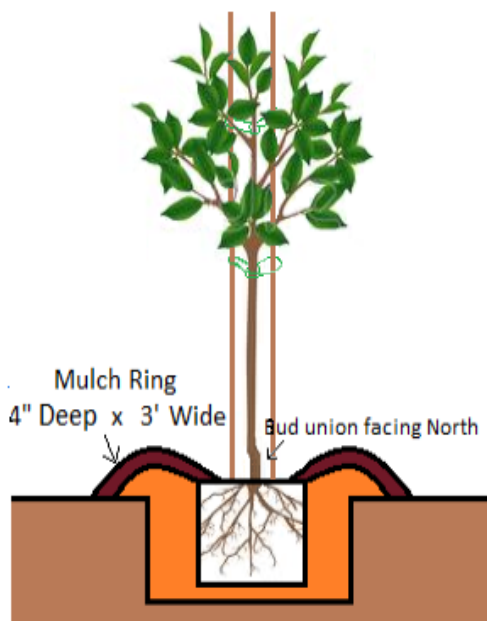
## Planting

### In Ground

- **G&B Planting Mix**
- **G&B Starter Fertilizer** or **Bone Meal**
- Native soil from the planting hole
- Water in with **Superthrive**
- **Mulch**

1. Dig hole 1x the height and 2x the width of the rootball
2. Settle your root ball in the hole and fill in with soil

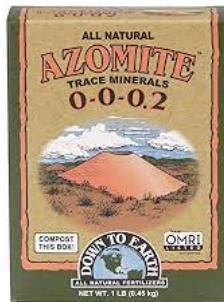
- Paper pots
  - Cut an X on the bottom and up the sides of the pot.
  - Set the paper pot in the hole. Do not take out the pot.
- Plastic pots
  - Tap sides of pot firmly
  - Tilt pot at a diagonal, pull out gently
  - Place root ball into the hole
- Bare root
  - Settle roots and fill soil mixture around and on top of it.
  - Top of the roots should rest just above grade.



3. Settle the root ball with graft union facing north
4. Soil mixture should consist of your native soil, planting mix, and fertilizer mixture
5. Attach two stakes on each side of your trunk and tie to trunk in a figure 8 with stretch tie tape or rubber tree ties
6. Check after watering that all roots are covered

## Fertilizer/Amendments

- Amendments
  - **Compost, Earth Worm Castings, Azomite** applied November - January time frame
  - Optional : Include **Langbeinite** for improved branch rigidity and sweetness
  - Mix and spread amendments in a donut shape as wide as the canopy
  - Cover with four inches of mulch. Start mulch ring 1" away from the trunk to prevent trunk rot
- Mulch options
  - A. Bark, rock, **G&B Soil Building Conditioner** or **G&B Harvest Supreme**
    - Increases moisture retention
    - Suppress weeds
    - Encourage earthworms and beneficial soil organisms
    - Prevent soil crusting and new compaction
    - Insulate soil from extreme temperatures
    - Improves soil structure
    - Improve water penetration
- First 3 years: Fertilize with **G&B Citrus and Fruit Tree** fertilizer in spring and summer
- Year 4+: Change to **G&B All Purpose** fertilizer in spring



## Pest and Disease Prevention

Persimmons have minimal pest problems. Pests or diseases being present is usually a sign that their water, fertility, or light needs to be corrected so that the tree can thrive.

Pests and diseases found on persimmon



Anthracnose



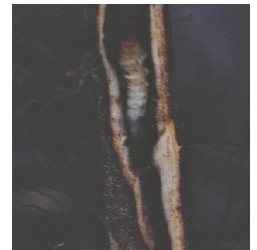
Black Spot  
*Alternaria alternata*



Scale



Persimmon phylla



Borer

Summer Watering		Fall and Spring Watering	Winter Watering
Year 1	Once every 1 week	Water half frequency of summer watering schedule.	No water needed
Year 2	Once every 2 weeks		During drought year winters water deeply every 2 months.
Year 3	Once every 3 weeks		
Year 4 - 5	Once every 1 month		
Year 6 - 7	Once every 2 months		
Year 8+	Once every 3 months		

### How much water to apply

At planting the volume of water should be **equal to double the original plant root ball / container size**.

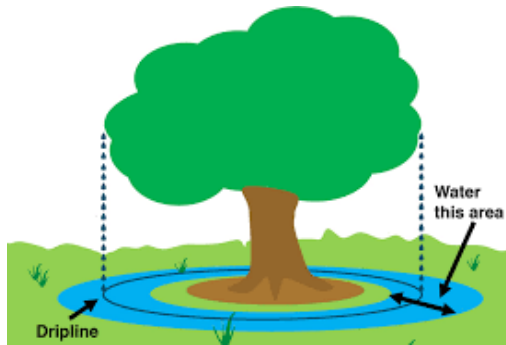
Example: A 10 gallon container plum should get 10 - 20 gallons of water per watering.



Existing trees need approximately **10 gallons of water per one inch of trunk diameter** measured 6 to 12 inches from the ground

### Question: What is the drip line?

The drip line is where a natural rainfall would fall onto the ground, at the edge of the canopy.

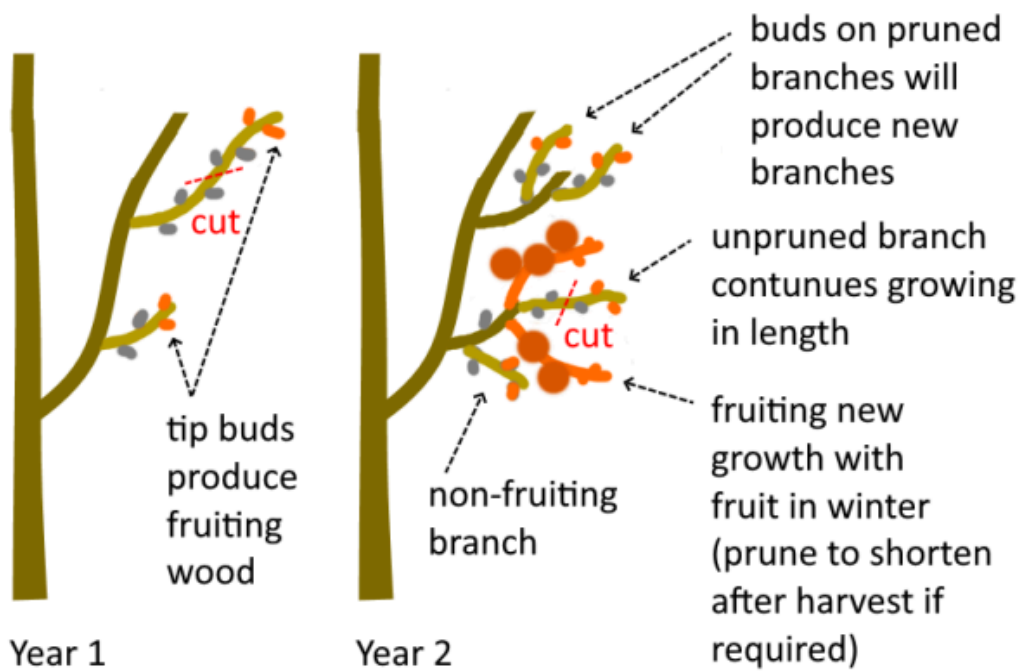


Watering zone indicated as blue in photo

### Pruning

- The shape and future height of your tree should be decided at a young age. If you want lower branching, a pruning cut should be made below chest height year 1 to encourage lower canopy development
- Majority of persimmon fruit develop from the tip buds of last year's shoots on new lateral growth.
- No more than 30% of the canopy should be removed in a single pruning session.
- Prune December - January
- Remove dead, and damaged branches
- Remove or shorten disoriented, crossing, rubbing branches
- If growth is weak, assess if fertility or water adjustments are needed
- Check for rootstock suckers at the base and remove

## How to Prune a Persimmon Tree



### Fruit Management

Question: "When can I eat my fruit?"

Answer: **In 2 - 3 years**

- Focus on strong canopy growth for the first 2 years, depending on which size you start with.
    - Check your tree to see if pruning is needed every year.
- Prune the main central lead the first year if you want to set a lower starting

canopy height.

- **All fruit should be removed for the first 2 years.**
- Some fruit can be allowed in year 3, **full production by year 4**
  - **Thin fruit when fruit is dime sized.** Keep 1- 3 fruit per cluster
  - Do not twist or pull off. Use scissors so you don't remove the entire cluster
- Trees that aren't thinned may have :
  - Weaker branch and root growth, broken branches, decreased size and quality of fruit

Extra notes:

Fruit Drop: excess Nitrogen can cause fruit drop