



Tree Owner Guide 2016

The Vancouver Fruit Tree Project Society is dedicated to harvesting and sharing neighbourhood fruit, and we could not do this without the support and participation of Tree Owners like you! Your generosity makes this project possible.

In anticipation of the upcoming season, we have prepared some guidelines to help you know your tree and some information on how you can let us know when your tree is ready!

Know how tall your tree is in meters (*this helps us to know what size ladder to bring*)

If your tree could fit inside an average room (2.5 meters) then it is a small tree. If your tree is too big to fit inside of a room, then it is a tall tree. Please let us know if you have your own ladder – this can be a great help!

Know approximately how much fruit is on your tree (*this will help us plan how many volunteers are needed and how/where to redistribute the fruit*)

In general, we want to know how many plastic grocery bags your fruit would fill. You can also provide an estimate in pounds. A rough guide is that a cardboard fruit box (like the large banana boxes) contains ~ 50lbs of apples. Try to judge how many boxes of fruit your tree might fill and multiply it by 50 to give you an estimate of how many pounds of fruit you have.

Identify any obstacles and access issues

Please provide as much detail as possible regarding the tree's location in your yard, pets that may be present and challenges with access (height of branches, yard work, etc.)

Know how to tell when your fruit is ripe (*this will help us to effectively schedule your tree for picking*)

Apples - Test how easily the apples come off the tree by gently holding the bottom of an apple. Lift the apple against the stem and gently twist. If the apple comes off easily, it is ripe and ready to be picked. If it requires a forceful tug, it is not quite ready to harvest. Alternatively you can cut open an apple and look at the colour of the seeds. Ripe apples have brown or dark seeds.

Pears - Usually more difficult to assess readiness. These need to be harvested when mature, not ripe, as they do not ripen well on the tree. See [blog](#) for more details.

Asian Pears- Are picked ripe from the tree, as they do not require more ripening after harvest. See this [guide](#) for tips on how to assess ripeness.

Figs- Also slightly trickier, as they must be harvested when ripe. Check if the stems have yellowed and if the fruit is soft to the touch. You can also refer to this [visual guide](#).

Please contact us at the first sign of ripening so we will have time to schedule a pick!

When your tree is ripe, contact us as soon as possible to schedule a pick!

Picks generally take one week to schedule. Email the Vancouver Fruit Tree Project Coordinator at coordinator@vancouverfruittree.com and please include whether you would like to be home during the pick and how much fruit you would like to keep (80% of the pick is donated to our community partners).

Thank you!