

# PLSOILIN 235

# Pruning Fruit Crops



## ***Class Description:***

This class provides the student with both the theoretical and practical knowledge necessary to train and prune deciduous fruit plants. The emphasis is placed on practical experience.

## ***Instructor:***

Dr. Wesley Autio

Office: 205 Bowditch Hall  
Telephone: 545-2963  
Email: [autio@pssci.umass.edu](mailto:autio@pssci.umass.edu)  
Office hours: by appointment

## ***Class Meetings:***

First class (January 29): Thursday, 1:25 PM - 2:15 PM, 106 French Hall.  
March - May classes: Thursday, 1:25 PM - 5:00 PM, UMass Cold Spring Orchard Research & Education Center, Applewood, and the UMass campus.

## ***Required Reading:***

Forshey, C. G., D. C. Elfving, and R. L. Stebbins. 1992. *Training and Pruning Apple and Pear Trees*. Amer. Soc. for Horticultural Sci., Alexandria, VA (Course packet, Textbook Annex).  
Lord, W. J. and J. F. Anderson. 1994. *Pruning in the Home Orchard*. UMass Extension Circular C-109 (cost = \$3.50, UMass Outreach Bookstore, University Drive -- near Amherst PO).  
Handouts will be distributed as required.

## ***Grades:***

Quizzes (each class, March 26-May 7) = 50% and class participation = 50%.

## ***Class Outline:***

January 29 Introduction to the class (106 French Hall).  
March 26 Training & pruning non-fruiting apple trees (UMass Cold Spring Orchard, Belchertown).  
April 2 Training & pruning young, fruiting apple trees (UMass Cold Spring Orchard, Belchertown).  
April 9 Training & pruning mature apple trees (UMass Cold Spring Orchard, Belchertown).  
April 16 Pruning neglected apple trees (Applewood, South Amherst).  
April 23 Training and pruning pear, plum, and cherry trees (UMass Cold Spring Orchard, Belchertown).  
April 30 Training and pruning peach trees (UMass Cold Spring Orchard, Belchertown).  
May 7 Pruning crabapple trees (UMass campus).

## **GRADES**

1. Quizzes will consist of a collection of essay, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, true/false, and multiple choice questions.
2. Make-up quizzes generally will not be given. Only under unusual circumstances, such as serious illness or death in the immediate family, will a student be permitted to take a make-up quiz. Oversleeping, car troubles, head-cold, and too many exams are not legitimate excuses for missing the quiz. In the event of illness or other serious problem, contact the instructor BEFORE a quiz if at all possible. If a make-up quiz is given, it may take any form, such as essay or oral questioning.
3. Students who cheat on a quiz will either be expelled from the University, receive an F for the course, or a zero for the quiz. This determination will be based on the severity of the situation and will be made by several authorities.
4. Grades will follow the standard ranges: A=93-100; A-=90-92; B+=88-89; B=83-87; B-=80-82, C+=78-79; C=73-77; C-=70-72; D+=68-69; D=63-67; D-=60-62; F<60.
5. Since the class is largely a laboratory class, 50% of the grade will be based on participation. You must make every effort to attend all classes.

## **OTHER CONCERNS**

1. Pruning equipment will be provided for your use; however, you are encouraged to purchase your own equipment and bring it to class.
2. If the weather is foul, dress appropriately. With the limited number of sessions, we will have to go outside in most bad weather.
3. Do not be late for class, since quizzes will be administered at 1:30PM. If you miss a class because of tardiness your grade will still be reduced.

## **TRAVEL TO PRUNING LOCATIONS**

1. If at all possible, please arrange travel to the UMass Cold Spring Orchard in Belchertown.

## **READING ASSIGNMENTS**

<b>Must be read by:</b>	<b><i>Training and Pruning Apple and Pear Trees</i></b>	<b><i>Pruning Fruit Trees in the Home Orchard</i></b>	<b>Handouts</b>
March 26	pages vii-23		
April 2	pages 25-54	pages 1-5, 8-12	
April 9	pages 73-101	pages 5-8, 12-14	
April 16	pages 103-135		
April 23	pages 136-158	pages 14-15	
April 30		pages 16-17	Peach handout
May 7		pages 15-19	Pear/plum/cherry handout