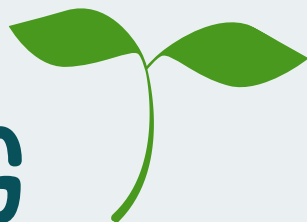


FRUIT WORKS CO-OPERATIVE'S

GUIDE TO COMMUNITY FRUIT GROWING



IDEAS FOR ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS TO HELP
YOU GROW MORE FRUIT IN YOUR COMMUNITY



FRUIT
WORKS
CO-OPERATIVE

Fruit Works Co-operative is a social enterprise helping communities in West Yorkshire to plant and maintain fruit trees.




OUR VISION

We envision more and more people in West Yorkshire growing and enjoying fruit in abundance. By 2050, everyone will have picked fruit off a tree and eaten it.

OUR MISSION

To make fruit growing a part of the culture and economy in West Yorkshire.

HOW WE WORK TOWARDS OUR MISSION

-  Provide accessible education, training and skill sharing opportunities
-  Connect fruit growers to fruit eaters
-  Get more people planting and caring for fruit trees and using the fruit

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide outlines the core activities we offer to community groups looking to enable more fruit growing on their patch and beyond in their wider community. Have a read through and come back to us about what you think your group needs.



OUR VALUES

Bringing people and land together

We recognise that we are part of Earth, and that our wellbeing is intricately tied to the wellbeing of the land. We practice stewardship of the land we live and work on. We help nurture people's connection with the land by creating opportunities to grow food and gather in community.

Sharing knowledge and resources

We enable people to take action themselves. We share knowledge and skills to foster a DIY, can-do attitude.

Taking meaningful action

We take on projects that steer us towards our vision for a better future. A future in which everyone in West Yorkshire has access to fruit trees and takes part in fruit growing, harvesting and eating within their community. We prioritise projects that redress inequalities in our society. Our strength lies in diversity: diversity of projects, diversity of plants we grow, diversity of people we work with.

1. ORCHARD DESIGN



A consultation with a Fruit Works team member to make a plan for your community orchard or fruit garden. We will run through all the important considerations, dig test holes and work with you to come up with the best design for your community's needs. We will then draw up the design and help you share it with your community for feedback.



Duration: 2-3 hrs
Season: Sep-Oct

2. APPLE JUICING



A fun fruit-filled session that will bring people together to get excited about growing and using fruit. Apple juicing is always popular, especially with families. We provide fruit and the apple pressing equipment, and facilitate the session to ensure everybody can enjoy pressing fruit safely. This activity works well alongside community engagement and consultation on new orchard plans.

3. ORCHARD PLANTING



We'll supply the trees, cages, stakes, ties and mulch and provide tools and PPE to facilitate planting your orchard. Participants will learn how to plant and stake fruit trees correctly so that the trees are given the best possible start in their new home.

Duration: 2-4 hrs
Season: Nov-Mar
Max participants: 40



Duration: 1-3 hrs
Season: May-Aug

4. MAINTENANCE SESSION



Now that your trees have been planted, the work continues: caring for your trees early in their lives is critical to their long term health. During this session, we will give your trees a health check, prune and weed where needed and apply a top-up of woodchip mulch. We will then advise you on how best to look after your trees going forward. This session can be with volunteers from your group or you can choose to have us come on our own.

5. PRUNING WORKSHOP



A practical and informative workshop on the basics of fruit tree pruning from one of our team of fruit tree specialists. Your group will learn the theory and practical elements of fruit tree pruning and get to have a go themselves using a range of tools that we provide.

Duration: 2 hrs
Season: Dec-Feb, Jun-Aug
Max participants: 20



6. GRAFTING WORKSHOP



Grafting is the skill of making new fruit trees by attaching a cutting (scion) to a compatible root system (rootstock). In this workshop, your group will learn the theory and practice of this valuable and satisfying skill and each person will create 2 of their own grafted trees to grow on at home.

Duration: 2.5 hrs
Season: Feb-Mar
Max participants: 15

7. FRUIT TREE GIVEAWAY



In urban areas, some of the best opportunities for nature recovery and food growing are on our doorstep, literally: in our gardens. By growing fruit trees in our gardens, we can significantly increase urban tree cover in our cities and the amount of fruit that is grown, shared and eaten. A fruit tree giveaway project can enable many more people to plant a tree in their garden who may otherwise never have done so.



OPTION 1: WORKSHOP & TREE GIVEAWAY

Participants are invited to sign up for a free, 2-hour Fruit Tree Planting & Care workshop and request a free fruit tree. In the workshop, we run through planting, pruning, mulching, watering and all the top tips for growing healthy fruit trees. We provide the requested trees from our nursery at the workshop for people to take home and plant themselves.

OPTION 2: TREE GIVEAWAY DELIVERED BY US

Participants request a free tree through an online form and specify whether they need help planting the tree. We source the trees from our nursery and deliver them to people's homes. If requested, we plant the tree with them or for them. We text or email participants with aftercare advice over the next six months.

NEXT STEPS



We can work with you to plan and deliver your fruit growing project, whether you already have funding available or need help securing it.



What to do next if...

(a) You have funds ready to go:

- Look at our up-to-date costings on fruitworks.org.uk/community-fruit
- Work out how you'd like to spend the funds
- Get in contact to organise this with us

Or (b) You need funding for your project

- Get in contact with us
- We'll work out a project plan together
- We'll help you to identify and apply for appropriate funding



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