

Name _____

Pruning and Caring for Your Fruit Trees and Bushes

Short Answer Key

1. Thinning out excess growth helps improve air circulation, reduce overcrowding, and promote better sunlight penetration within the canopy. This results in healthier plants and increased fruit production.
2. Overwatering can lead to root rot and other fungal diseases, as it saturates the soil and reduces oxygen levels around the roots. Proper watering ensures that the roots receive adequate moisture without becoming waterlogged.
3. Heading back involves cutting back the tips of branches to encourage new growth and maintain the desired shape of the tree or bush. Care should be taken not to remove more than one-third of a branch's length.
4. Mulching helps conserve soil moisture, suppress weed growth, and maintain a consistent soil temperature. It also prevents soil erosion and protects the tree's or bush's roots from extreme temperature fluctuations.
5. Factors to consider include the type of fruit, its ripeness (color, firmness, and flavor), the weather conditions, and the plant's specific harvest season. Proper timing ensures that the fruit is at its peak flavor and quality.

