



# Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society Bridgend demonstration allotment

## Summer pruning workshop held by George Anderson

Summer pruning is done to encourage the energy of the plant to go to the ripening of the fruit and encouragement of next year's fruit buds, not further growth.



**Top fruit** [ ie apples, pears ]– all grown on dwarfing rootstock and in varying shapes – cordon, espalier, bush

Apples fruit on old wood.

Cordon – planted to slope to the north so the sun shines on the full stem. Stop the growth on the main shoot so it is reachable from the ground. Prune in the side shoots leaving a handspan. The section left will produce the fruiting spurs.

Espalier – shorten back side shoots to concentrate growth on the branches which can be trained along the wires. Look for branches growing out at right angles which are much stronger than others growing at a smaller angle. Branches growing out at front/back or crossing over, remove completely.

Bush - want to create a tulip effect. Cut back on growth as above, remove crossover branches. Open out the centre

If shoots appear from the rootstock ie below the graft, remove by tearing off. If cut off, will leave buds which will grow again. If these shoots are left, they will grow from the rootstock which is different from the grafted variety so will grow stronger and take over.

Top fruit is grown on specialist root stock. For small apple trees M9 will give trees up to 1.8-3m; M27 trees up to 1.5-1.8m

**Plums** fruit on 1 year old wood. The pruning of plums must be done in summer to avoid the introduction of fungus diseases ie silver leaf. Cut back only to keep to desired size. Control plum aphid by removing affected shoots.

**Gooseberries** fruit on old wood so need to concentrate growth on the old stems.

New bushes will need to create a leg – about 6 inches - in order to lift the fruiting branches off the ground and allow air into the bush. Also need to create a shape which allows safe picking so ensure there is space for the hand round each branch. Try growing as cordons and espaliers to give easier access to the fruit.

Remove the tips of the new growth and take out the cross stems.

Established bushes – remove about 10 inches of new growth. In winter, remove about another 2 inches of growth.

## **Cherries.**

Fruit on the young growth. Cherries are being espalier trained so look for the branches which can be tied in to the wires. Add more wires if necessary. Take back to concentrate growth.

## **Raspberries**

Summer fruiting – once the fruiting is over, cut the fruiting canes down to the ground. The old canes are brown and the new canes are green.

Allow about 6 new canes to grow on each planting station and remove the others. Tie in to the support to reduce wind damage.

Autumn fruiting – the canes grow in the year of fruiting so cut down to the ground in January. Can leave some on a leg for summer and autumn fruiting from the same variety.



## **Currants -**

Redcurrants and white currants – Fruit on the old wood so wish to encourage new growth on these.

Need to grow on a leg about 6 inches to lift the fruiting branches from the ground and let air into the plant. Remove low growing branches if necessary. Remove crossover branches and cut back the new growth.

Blackcurrants – Fruit on the young wood. Can cut off the fruiting branches when picking the fruit to make it easier to pick the fruit, but cut off completely. Wish to create an open bush and encourage new growth to come out from the bottom. No winter work needs done.

Common disease of blackcurrants is 'big bud'. The buds should be pointed so if the fruit buds are like tiny golf balls then the bush has big bud. Best to dig up any affected bush but can leave and monitor.

**Strawberries** – After fruiting cut off all the leaves, feed and water. Remove runners unless you wish new plants.



**Brambles/Loganberries/ Tayberries** – After fruiting, remove all the fruiting canes and train in the new canes. Can be helpful each year to train all the new canes to one side and the fruiting canes to the other.