

Espalier: More Than a Fancy Fruit Tree!

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<http://cesacramento.ucanr.edu>

Espalier: Technique of growing trees into a two dimensional flat plane by training and pruning

Advantages:

- Good use of narrow spaces
- Easier to manage
- Narrow canopy; good sunlight exposure
- Efficient crop production
- Heat capture from walls in winter
- More effective pest management

Disadvantages

- Learning curve
- Increased cost
- Fruiting branches of some species less compatible
- Sunburn & borers (paint exposed branches white)
- Some trees overly vigorous (use semi-dwarf)



Ease of espalier by fruit species:

Spur bearing: Easy

Pome fruits, apricot, cherry, plum, pluot, citrus

Bear on long branches or new growth: More challenging

Fig, peach, persimmon

Potential advantage for managing pests: Covering trees

Existing pests: Codling moth, spotted wing drosophila (cherry maggot), peach leaf curl, birds, squirrels

New pests: Brown marmorated stink bug, Asian citrus psyllid

Trellis construction tips

Use rot-resistant posts, e.g., redwood, pressure-treated

Sink posts in concrete that extends above ground

Use heavy gauge wire (12 or 14 gauge)

Support end posts to prevent wire sag

- Use guy wire attached to helical anchor (earth anchor) in ground
- Or use chain link top rail between posts

Wires 1-2 ft. apart (2 ft. for horizontal T, 12 to 18 in. for other methods)

Espalier methods

Cordon Patterns				Serpentine Patterns			
	Vertical Cordon	Oblique Cordon	Stepcover		Serpentine	Heart	Crossover "Espalier"
	Multiple Cordon Patterns					Fence	
"U"		Double "U"	Multiple Cordon	Belgian Fence	Drapeau Marchand		Arcure
Tiered Patterns					Fan Patterns		
	Palmette Verrier/Candelabra	"Espalier" / Horizontal T	Palmette Oblique	Fan		2 Scaffold Fan	Informal

Source: EspalierServices.com

Training Peach on Espalier



Lateral shoots produced off main shoots

Cut to lowest lateral



Before pruning – 5/10/2015



After pruning – 5/10/2015

References

The Home Orchard: Growing Your Own Deciduous Fruit and Nut Trees (2007), UC Agric. & Nat. Resources, pub. no. 3485. (<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/>)
Pruning and Training (2011), Amer. Horticulture Society.