



Orchard news

Summer is here, albeit in dribs and drabs, but the cherries are mostly picked and the traditional opening apple of the season, the Joanettings (a corruption of June Eating), are ready to go. There's not a huge amount to do in the orchard except enjoy it! Of course work is never entirely done, so here's a roundup of summer tasks such as bud grafting, summer pruning and orchard grassland management.

Budding news

Orchard events

We have a new events page for you to find apple days, training courses and other orchard related events in your neighbourhood. It will be kept updated with all the events we hear about so if you know of any that aren't listed, [please let us know](#).

Community orchards near you

Community orchards capture the traditional notion of people coming together for a common interest and sharing the spoils of a combined effort. Apart from getting to know like-minded locals, they are a great way of preserving and promoting this wonderful habitat.

To find your nearest community orchard, or discover how to go about setting up one in your community, visit our [new community orchards page](#). We have created a map of all the community orchards we know about, which you can search by post code. We are sure we haven't found all of them, so we need your help to complete the map. Please let us know about any [community orchards that are not listed on the map](#), or update the information we hold.



Orchard Network website

The Orchard Network is a partnership of organisations working together for the conservation of Traditional Orchards as a wildlife habitat. The website helps you to share knowledge about orchards including orchard [events](#), [training](#), [protection](#), [local resources](#), [groups and services](#) and [community orchards](#).

We are pleased to announce that the website for the Network is now hosted by PTES, which will allow us to keep the information up to date and reduce our costs. To find out more, please [visit the new Orchard Network pages](#).

In the orchard

New orchard skills videos

We have just released two new videos to help with some summer orchard tasks. Anyone that would like to graft some new fruit trees but just can't wait till winter, you're in luck. Bud grafting is best done in the summer, and is the process of grafting a leaf bud from a tree of the variety you want onto a root-stock. For full instructions to bud grafting including a short video guide, see the [bud grafting instruction page](#).



If you pruned any of your fruit trees last winter, or if you are growing trained trees like espalier or step-over trees, you might also be interested in our [video guide to summer pruning](#). Summer pruning helps you thin out excessive summer growth in your trees, allowing more sunshine and air to circulate and reach developing fruit, as well as enabling you to encourage the tree to develop more fruiting spurs for future years. Click here to find [a full guide to summer pruning fruit trees](#).



Grass management

High rainfall encourages lush growth. If your orchard is not grazed it's probably ready for a mow. Effective management prevents the grassland converting to scrub, helps support the floral diversity and enables you use and enjoy your orchard to its potential. An overly mown orchard floor is not great for the wildlife, but harvesting windfalls from long, wet, and nettle filled grass is no fun. For a guide to managing the grass in your orchard for wildlife check out our [guide to orchard sward management](#).

P+D Corner

Summertime equals pest and disease time. Keep an eye out for aphids. Ants crawling up the trunk to farm them and harvest aphid honeydew are a dead giveaway. Take measures

to stop the ants climbing and disturb nearby nests to keep them under control. If the tree is small, rub the aphids off or cut the affected branch-ends away. Those perennial fiends scab, mildew and canker are best controlled by having healthy trees. If a tree is affected, a mulch could help replenish some soil nutrient and help the tree fight off infections. Remove cankerous branches or, if lower down, cut out the infected bark and any stained wood below. This can be sealed with special paints but effectiveness is questionable – it's probably only necessary if there's a lot of canker in the orchard already.



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