



# THE HERITAGE OF ORCHARDS & CIDER MAKING IN WALES

## FRUIT TREE & ORCHARD INFORMATION GUIDE

This guide will direct you to a variety of sources which will give an introduction to all stages of fruit tree and orchard management, from planning and planting through to cider making and orchard events. This guide provides links to written documents, diagrams, videos and useful websites. You will need Internet access to use this guide.

This guide has been produced as part of "The Heritage of Orchards & Cider Making in Wales" project, funded by the Heritage Lottery and carried out by The Welsh Perry & Cider Society and partners.





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## LINKS TO INFORMATION

Click on the title of the resources to access them.

### 1. PLANNING & PLANTING

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- [Marking Out Orchards](#)  
- *John Worle*
- [Planning Orchards](#)  
- *Ragman's Lane Farm*
- [Site & Tree Selection](#)  
- *Natural England*
- [Planting Advice](#)  
- *National Association of Cider Makers*
- [Planting Fruit Trees](#)  
- *People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES)*
- [Planting Guide](#)  
- *The Green Valleys*
- [Planting & Rootstock Guide](#)  
- *Tom Adams (Tom the Apple Man)*

### 2. LOOKING AFTER YOUR ORCHARD

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#### a. Tree Health

- [Fruit Tree Health](#)  
- *Natural England*
- [Fruit Pests and Diseases](#)  
- *Royal Horticultural Society*
- [Fruit Tree Health](#) - PTES
- [Orchard Diseases](#) - PTES
- [Orchard Pests](#) - PTES

#### b. Biodiversity

- [Managing Orchards for Biodiversity](#) - *Sazer Ecology*
- [Managing Orchards for Wildlife](#) - PTES
- [Orchards & Wildlife](#)  
- *Natural England*
- [Orchard Floor Management](#)  
- PTES
- [Orchard Management for Bees](#)  
- *Bumblebee Conservation Trust (BBCT)*



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- Traditional Orchards for Wildlife - PTES
- Wildlife-friendly Orchards - PTES
- Fruit Trees & Bees - BBCT
- Making B-Lines - Buglife
- Plants for Pollinators - Buglife
- Wildlife and Cider Orchards - PTES

## c. Pruning

- Introduction to Pruning - PTES
- Formative Pruning - PTES
- Restoration Pruning - PTES
- Summer Pruning - PTES
- Winter Pruning - PTES

## 3. GRAFTING

- Introduction to Grafting - PTES
- Scion Selection - PTES
- Bud Grafting - PTES
- Bench Grafting - PTES
- Framework Grafting - PTES

## 4. MAKING USE OF YOUR ORCHARD

- Fruit Harvest - PTES
- Cider Making - Dave Matthews (*Bartestree Cider*)
- Apple Day Ideas - Common Ground
- Cider Making Digital Stories
  - Llanblethian Orchards: Specific gravity & alcohol content
  - Hallets: Harvest, production and product
  - Seidr y Mynydd: Cidre Bouche
  - Raglan Cider Mill: Cider production
  - Raglan Cider Mill: Perry production

## 5. GENERAL ORCHARD INFORMATION

- Orchard Year Planner - PTES
- Restoring Old Orchards - Three Counties Traditional Orchard Project
- Traditional Orchards Summary - Natural England



## FRUIT TREE & ORCHARD INFORMATION GUIDE

### LINKS TO VIDEOS



Click this symbol to view videos relating to different aspects of orchard management, with advice provided by orchard experts.



### BLUE BARNES-THOMAS

Horticulturalist at National  
Botanic Garden of Wales



#### Providing Nutrients:

*Blue explains how to provide nutrients to young trees.*



#### Formative Pruning:

*Blue demonstrates two different pruning methods - goblet and leader.*



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**MATT DUNWELL**

Ragman's Lane Farm



### **Planting on Contours:**

*Matt explains how to plant trees on contours.*



### **Willows for Compost:**

*Matt explains how he planted willows in waterlogged soil and uses them for compost for his orchard.*



### **Mulching & Nutrients:**

*Matt explains how to provide nutrients to fruit trees using organic material.*



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### Pruning Demo:

*Matt demonstrates how to prune fruit trees to encourage new growth.*



*Matt explains how and why he grafted a tree to change its variety.*





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**JOHN WORLE**  
Orchardist



*John demonstrates three different grafting techniques – whip and tongue, Somerset Saddle and rind grafting.*



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## USEFUL WEBSITES

These links will provide more information to help maintain and make use of your apple and pear tree or orchard.

### PEOPLE'S TRUST FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES

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The PTES website has a section specifically based on traditional orchards, with a wide variety of information about orchard management, including practical guides which can be downloaded and printed. There is also information on how to make use of the orchard for events, fundraising and produce, and a database of fruit (FruitFinder) which can be searched by type, location or use.

**<https://ptes.org/campaigns/traditional-orchard-project/>**

### IAN STURROCK & SONS

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This nursery has been growing Welsh fruit varieties for over 30 years, and the website has several video guides, including tips on pruning, grafting, and identifying and avoiding disease.

**<http://iansturrockandsons.co.uk/videoguides.html>**

### NATIONAL FRUIT COLLECTION

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The NFC holds information on the different varieties of orchard fruit, including photographs and detailed descriptions. The database can be searched by name, and by type of fruit.

**<http://www.nationalfruitcollection.org.uk/>**





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### BUMBLEBEE CONSERVATION TRUST

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Orchards play an important role in protecting bumblebees through providing pollen and nectar from blossoms, and the bees in turn help pollination in the orchard. The website has information on how to manage land – including a fact sheet on orchards - for bumblebees.

**<https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/land-management-advice/>**

### WILDLIFE TRUSTS

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Local wildlife trusts can give advice on maintaining biodiversity and managing orchards for wildlife. There are six wildlife trusts within Wales, covering different geographical areas.

*South & West Wales:* **<https://www.welshwildlife.org/>**

*North Wales:* **<http://www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk/>**

*Gwent:* **<http://www.gwentwildlife.org/>**

*Montgomeryshire:* **<http://www.montwt.co.uk/>**

*Brecknock:* **<http://brecknockwildlifetrust.org.uk/>**

*Radnorshire:* **<http://rwtwales.org/>**

### GLOUCESTERSHIRE ORCHARD TRUST

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The trust conserves, promotes and celebrates traditional orchards in Gloucestershire.

**<http://www.glosorchards.org>**



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### KENT ORCHARDS

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The Kent Orchards for Everyone project supports community orchards through training, giving volunteers the skills to protect valuable traditional orchard habitat. The website contains a great deal of advice on orchard management including pruning, grafting, and maintaining hedgerows.

**<https://www.kentorchards.org.uk/advice>**

### BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE LIBRARY

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The Biodiversity Heritage Library improves research methodology by collaboratively making biodiversity literature openly available to the world as part of a global biodiversity community.

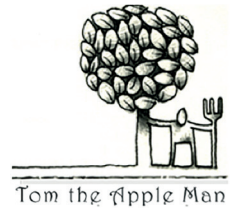
**<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>**



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## CONTRIBUTORS

We would like to thank the following organisations who have contributed learning materials to this guide. Click on the logos to go to the organisation's website.



Sazer Ecology  
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John Worle Limited  
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Ian Sturrock & Sons