



No Fruit Growing – 15 Unfortunate Reasons

There can be many reasons why fruit trees or shrubs do not bear fruit when they are supposed to. Worse, sometimes there can be multiple causes at work at the same time. Often the problem is not immediately fixable and goes beyond simply walking up to the tree and inspecting it.

But you have to start somewhere, which is why we list some causes and possible solutions to the problem below.

What is wrong	Cause	Possible solution
Zoning and variety	Tree Cold Hardiness not matching zoning	Choose varieties appropriate for your cold hardiness zoning (match genus – i.e. apple – and cross-pollinator if needed)
	No tree of the same genus (i.e. Malus) nearby	Plant another tree of the same genus (match with appropriate cross-pollinator)
	The other variety/cultivar in yard is sterile	Plant appropriate cross-pollinator
Exposure	Lack of sun light	All fruit trees and shrubs need full sun (>6 hours of sun)
Weather	Cold, cool, rainy weather conditions during flowering	Nothing you can do, but wait for better weather conditions next year
	Frost damage: flowers of fruit trees are very sensitive to late spring frosts	Protect trees with fleece or heating or by moving air
	Extreme low winter temperatures	Nothing you can do, but wait for better weather conditions next year
	Inconstitent winter temperatures	Nothing you can do, but wait for better weather conditions next year
Timing	Tree Cold Hardiness not matching zoning	Choose varieties appropriate for your cold hardiness zoning (match genus – i.e. apple – and cross-pollinator if needed)
	Trees/shrubs that need pollinators are not blooming at the same time or time range	Choose the appropriate varieties
Spacing	Trees are out of range for pollinators	Apple - semi-dwarf: <50 feet Apple - dwarf: <20 feet Blueberry: <6 feet Cherry, Sweet: <6 feet Pear: < 100 feet Plum : <100 feet
Maturity	Trees are to young for regular production	In general trees come in production after: Apple: 2-5 years Blueberry: 2-3 years Cherry, Sweet: 4-7 years Cherry, Sour: 3-5 years Pear: 4-6 years Plum: 3-6 years



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	Old, unproductive trees that do not flower	Trees can be rejuvenated by pruning/removing old, unproductive growth and allowing new growth to replace it.
Improper tree vigor	Trees expend all their energy in growing wood and do not produce flower buds	Regular (yearly) moderate pruning to encourage fruit growth by getting more open canopy for better air-flow and allowing light Avoid over-pruning Avoid over-fertilization
Pollinating insects	Lack in number of pollinating insects, such as bees	Attract pollinating insects by adding flowering plants close to the fruit trees or shrubs. Most flowering plants are almost guaranteed to attract bees, especially marigolds, pansies, spurge, trollius, and arabis are as the blooming times coincide with fruit trees
Pests and diseases	Leaf drop, yellowing leaves, curled leaves, insect infestation.	Take preventing measures and check your tree often for signs of stress and act accordingly if your tree is under attack

We hope this guide is helpful to you. **Let us know if you have any questions or additions.**