

Orchard Learning Programme 2019

Course dates, outline & information

9-months from March-November

The programme is designed for participants with some previous experience of growing tree fruits (e.g. apple, pear, plum)



Course fee, £125, plus HOCO membership*, £25/£20

10 places

Orchard Learning is a hands-on and holistic programme. Learning with others is practical and fun. Participants will gain experience, knowledge, skills, and confidence to care for fruit trees for years to come.

The *Orchard Learning Programme* guides participants through a growing season in an established community orchard. It begins as the soil is stirring, and trees, as well as pests and diseases, are waking up from dormancy. It follows the fruiting arc from blossom, pollination and fruit set, to development, ripening and harvest. During the course participants learn to tune in to, and be guided by, the characteristics and needs of individual trees of different ages, varieties, and conditions.

Dates	Times	Content
Saturday 2 March	14:00-17:00	Introduction to HOCO Meet your Tree Buddies
Saturday 6 April	14:00-17:00	Pruning (1) Dormant season Apple and pear trees
Saturday 4 May	14:00-17:00	Soil Food Web Feed, weed & mulch
Saturday 1 June	14:00-17:00	Healthy trees Pests, diseases and disorders
Saturday 6 July	14:00-17:00	Pruning (2) Growing season Plums and fruit thinning
Saturday 3 August	14:00-17:00	Pruning (3) Growing season Apple, pear, and trained forms
Saturday 7 September	14:00-17:00	Harvest, storage and preservation; Pruning review
Saturday 5 October	14:00-17:30	Diversity and resilience; Pruning review
Saturday 2 November	14:00-16:30	Planning, planting & problem-solving; Course review
Saturday 2 November - tbc	time tbc	End of programme Celebration meal

*Participants agree to be/become members of Horfield Organic Community Orchard, and can join as a Harvest-share or Friend member (more information about membership [here](#)). Members share responsibility for looking after a pioneering community orchard, and helping to organise successful community events.

Please apply for ***Orchard Learning Programme 2019*** by **Saturday 16 February 2019**.

Contact hocopips@gmail.com for more information.