

Orchard Learning Programme 2019

9-month course tuned to the growing year

March - November, the **first Saturday** of each month, **2pm-5pm**

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

10 places Some fruit growing experience needed.

- Know your trees – characteristics, history, ‘internal condition’
- Pests, diseases, disorders, nutrition
- Pruning all year round – why, how, and when
- Resilience in the face of climate change & weather challenges
- Good harvests – storage, preservation, health benefits

Get Growing Fruit Trees - an introduction

Sundays: 3 March, 5 May, 7 July, 8 September, **2pm-4.30pm**

Course fee £60 (HOCO members*), £75 (non-members)

8 places No previous experience needed.

- March - Know your trees, their care needs, site, and soil
- May - Pests, diseases, disorders
- July - Pruning – why and how
- September - Harvest, storage & preservation

Weekend Pruning courses

Course fee £60 (HOCO members*), £75 (non-members), each course.

8 places Some fruit growing experience needed.

Learn by doing, and gain hands-on experience and confidence to:

- Form and train young trees
- Renew established free-standing and trained trees
- Restore old trees

Pruning - Dormant season – *Apple & pear trees*

Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 March, 10am-4pm

Pruning - Growing season – *Stone fruit trees - Plum, gage, damson*

Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 June, 10am-4pm

Pruning - Growing season – *Apple & pear trees*

Saturday 20 July & Sunday 21 July, 10am-4pm

Orchard Learning Courses 2019 at Horfield Organic Community Orchard

Day courses

Planning and caring for fruit grown in small spaces - an introduction

Course fee £30 (HOCO members*), £45 (non-members), each day

8 places No previous experience needed.

Saturday 27 April, 10am-4pm

Saturday 15 June, 10am-4pm

Growing season pruning of Apples & Pears – an introduction

Course fee £45 (HOCO members*), £60 (non-members)

6 places No previous experience needed

Saturday 27 July, 10am-4pm

How to apply

Places are limited. Early booking advised.

For more information, and an application form, please contact:

hocopips@gmail.com or

☎ 0117 373 1587

Course details, dates, and application links at www.community-orchard.org.uk from November 2018.

*HOCO member fees apply to current members (2018/2019) who renew for 2019/2020. They also apply to those who join as new members on, or after, 1 February 2019.

Course tutor & programme developer



Shannon Smith has been an active member of HOCO for eleven years, and the orchard co-ordinator from 2010-2018.

She is a lifelong gardener, professional cook, researcher, and qualified community educator. Shannon brings all her skills, passions, and experience to courses that nurture knowledge, confidence, and pleasure in fruit growing.

Courses hosted by **Horfield Organic Community Orchard (HOCO)**. A creative, community food project, set up on a north Bristol allotment site in 1998. The orchard has more than 100 fruiting trees, including apples, pears, plums, nuts, vines, and soft fruit. HOCO aims to inspire more people to grow more fruit in gardens, allotments, and pockets of private and public land.