

Orchard micro-Planner

1. Decide on orchard area based on the following;

- Soil quality, particularly drainage and shelter. (or shelter to be created)
- Proximity of large trees (ideally no nearer such trees are high) and heavy shade
- Competing land use
- Availability of labour, machinery, capital etc

2. Decide on eventual size of trees and therefore rootstock, e.g. 10 feet for M26 rootstock, 13-14 feet for MM106 rootstock. Bear in mind that if a 'half-standard' stem is required (4 ½ feet) then MM106 or MM111 must be used. (See website) Cordons and espaliers can be kept to 6 feet tall, spacing 2 ½ feet and 12 – 15 feet respectively.

3. This in turn determines tree spacing, e.g. 12 feet for M26, 15 feet for MM106 (assuming ordinary 'bush' tree shape)

4. Now the total number of trees can be worked out.

5. Decide how many of each species and whether dessert or culinary, e.g. 70% apples, 15% plums, 10% pears and 5% cherries; of the apples, 80% dessert and 20% culinary, same with the plums.

6. Decide on relative importance of different functions of the orchard/fruit, e.g. domestic or partial commercial, historic, etc.

7. Now varieties can be chosen either by customer, by the nurseryman or by a combination.