

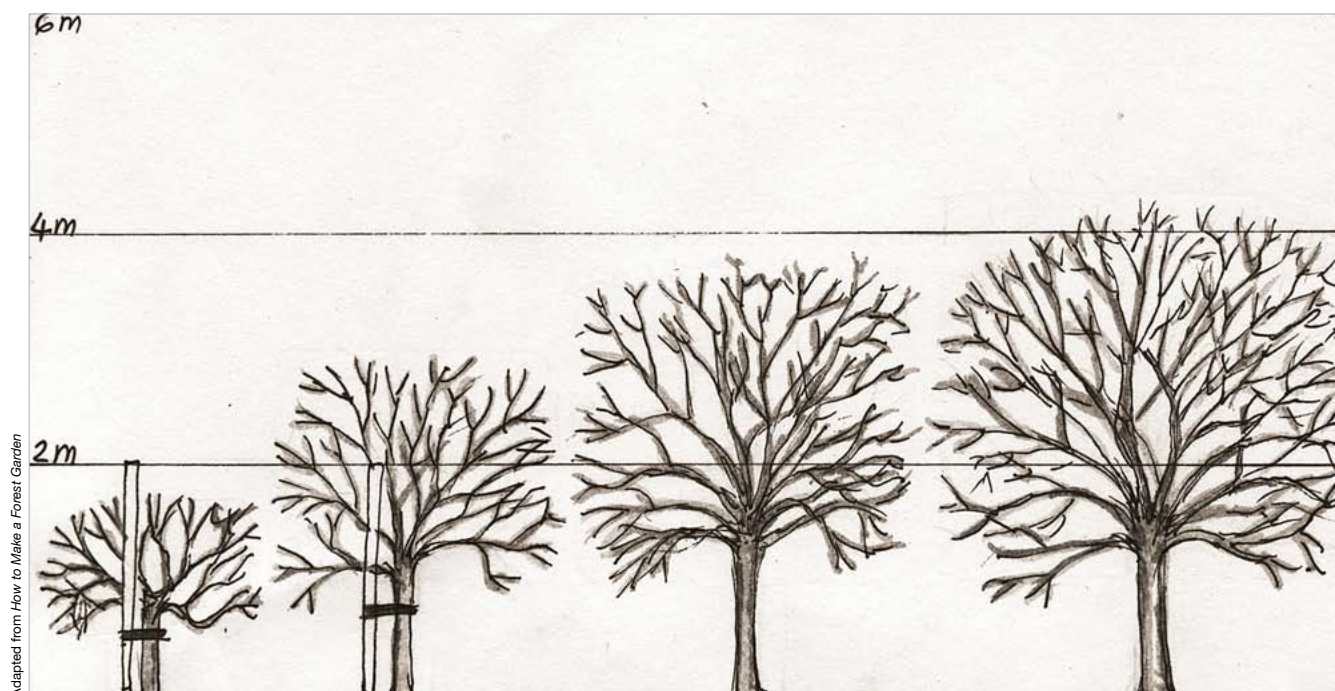


Choose the right rootstock

It is the rootstock of a fruit tree that determines how big the tree gets and what soil conditions it can handle. This especially applies to apples.

Useful information about types of apple rootstock is listed below, and the best rootstocks for other types of fruit are on the next page.

Rootstocks for apple trees



Adapted from How to Make a Forest Garden

M27 Super dwarf M9 Dwarf

- Suits well-drained, fertile soils – NOT heavy clay soils
- Fruits well in 2nd year
- Shallow roots – needs a sheltered spot, permanent stakes, and plenty of mulch
- Espalier is best – train along a fence or wires
- Lives about 30 years

M26 Dwarf

- Best in fertile, free-draining soil – cannot cope with waterlogging
- Can be grown without staking in sheltered areas

MM106 Semi-dwarf

- Good on most soils, except poorly drained sites
- Has a strong frame and roots, does not need staking – good in exposed areas
- Semi-vigorous – can be kept smaller with pruning
- Fruits in the 3rd or 4th year and can be a heavy cropper
- More resistant to woolly aphid



Rootstocks

Rootstocks for other trees

Pear

On heavy, fertile soils, grow pears on quince rootstock (grows to about 3m tall).

Apricot, plum, peach, nectarine

On heavy soils, use trees grown on plum rootstock (grows to 4–6m). On dry soils, use peach rootstock (grows to 5–8m). To save space, you can prune them to size as a standard tree, or as a *fan* against a wall.

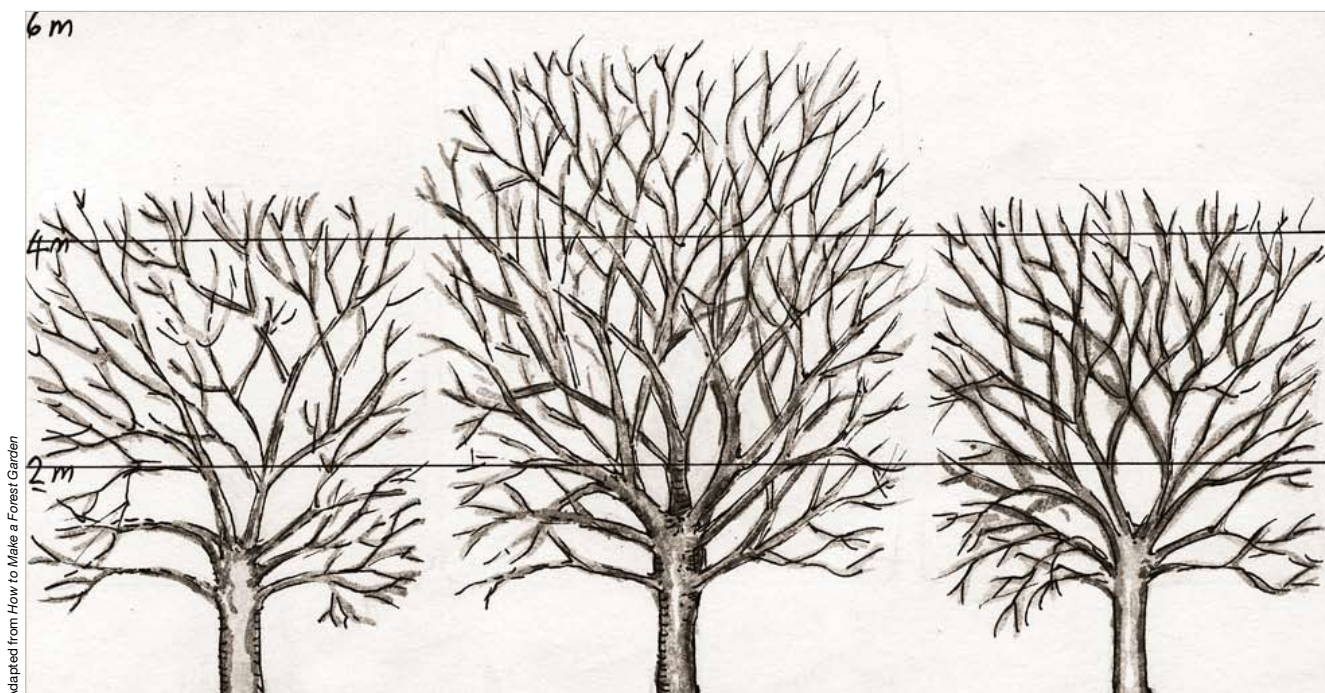
Cherry

Choose trees grown on Tangshe rootstock (grows to 4m). Prune to an appropriate size for your section, as a standard tree or as a *fan*.

Citrus

Use trees grown on Flying Dragon (grows to 2.5m), or if you're on heavy clay soil, Trifoliata (grows to 2.3m).

(Apple rootstocks cont.)



Adapted from How to Make a Forest Garden

M116 Semi dwarf

- Better suited to difficult soils (heavy or clay) than other rootstocks
- Vigorous, looks chunkier than the M106, and has a more upright framework and branches
- Needs regular pruning, or growing as espalier, to control size
- Has good anchorage
- Fruits strongly in the 5th year
- More resistant to woolly aphid and collar rot

M793 Tall

Northern Spy

- An especially good rootstock for heavy clay soils
- Suits conditions in Golden Bay
- Grows into a large strong tree – needs regular pruning, or growing as espalier, to keep it smaller
- Shows resistance to woolly aphid