

Staking and pruning passion fruits

FACT SHEET

Passion fruit must be pruned to yield many fruits

Passion fruits are grown for their fresh fruit, or for their juice. There is a ready market for passion fruits, so you can earn good money with a well-managed passion fruit orchard. To get many healthy passion fruits, you must stake and prune them.



Passion fruit vines need air and sunshine to grow many fruits

Most fruit grows on the secondary vines

The passion fruit plant is a climbing vine that grows on a support. A passion fruit plant has a main vine that produces secondary vines. Smaller vines, called tertiary vines, grow from the secondary vines. Passion fruit plants bear most of the fruits on the secondary vines.

Secondary and tertiary vines should not be allowed to entangle with the main vine. If you do not prune the vines well, the passion fruit gets diseases because leaves over-shade each other and pests hide under them. The parts of the vine that do not receive sunlight do not flower. Pruning also stimulates new fruit to grow on the secondary vines.

How to stake and prune passion fruit

To stake and prune passion fruit plants, establish stakes every 3 metres in a row, with 3 to 6 metres between the rows. Tie wires along the stakes in each row at a height of 2 metres above the ground. Plant the passion fruits plants 6 metres apart within the row to allow the main vine to grow well.

Stake passion fruit plants when they are one metre tall. Allow only one vine to grow up a string to the top of the stake. Prune off all secondary branches until the vine reaches the wire 2 metres above the ground.



Remove dead leaves and the small, tertiary vines

When the main vine reaches the wire, pinch off the top bud so that side vines will grow from the top end. Allow only 2 main vines to grow in opposite directions along the top wire. The main vine can grow up to 6 metres in each direction. Secondary vines will grow from the main vine and produce fruits.

Prune off tertiary vines so they do not entangle with the main and secondary vines. After each harvest season, remove the 3 oldest secondary vines closest to the main vine to encourage new growth. During pruning, remove dead plant materials and all yellow and diseased leaves.

Watch a full video on this topic at www.accessagriculture.org or contact one of the people below to get the video on DVD.

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