

Glenburn Orchard 2015-16 apple thinning recommendations:

Guidelines will change according to the block being thinned and depends on how much fruit is on the trees.

Instruction from the supervisor will be given please ask if in doubt.

Ladder training must occur & sign document prior to starting.

You are hair dressing the tree to allow a well balance crop to grow. The best apples to stay on the tree.

Look at the size of your branches and that will influence how it can hold the fruit for example at the end of a thin branch not much fruit will hold.

Process for thinning:

- 1. Check how many apples per bud required it will be 1's or 2's or 3's or a combination will depend on the size of the limb**
- 2. Great opportunity to remove any damaged fruit get it off now! Choose this fruit first:**
 - **Rot**
 - **Skin punctures**
 - **Black spot**
 - **Hale damage**
 - **Grub damage**
 - **Mis-shaped fruit**
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- 3. Then remove fruit not needed aim to leave fruit of a similar size left and leave the best fruit on the trees well-spaced not too close together about a fist apart. Keep your best fruit on the trees do not leave bunches.**
- 4. Technique for removal snap off at base do not pull will remove whole bud, then either drop to the ground behind you do not other fruit gets damaged or place in lugs for collection.**
- 5. Do not allow to drop and bruise other fruit on trees please make sure you flick them behind you.**
- 6. If any powdery mildew is observed on apples or leaves remove and throw to the ground.**
- 7. If the fruit is purple and shrivelled it means the spray is working it will fall off anyway so you can leave on tree ask for demo.**
- 8. You will need to work at a steady pace to ensure productivity for our business we cannot afford slow work, don't think too much just remember the rules. Best spaced fruit on the trees in 1's 2's or 3's depending on the branch sizes & instructions.**

Cluster of fruit needing to be thinned keep the best fruit well-spaced.



I use my fist as a measure for minimum distance between fruit on any branch.



Look at each cluster. Here's what you want to remove:

1. Wrinkled fruit
2. Misshapen fruit
3. Diseased fruit
4. Fruit that is much smaller than the rest in the cluster
5. Fruit with pest or disease damage
6. Powdery Mildew