



## Inspire a fruit tree orchard planting at your children's school with Fruit Tree

101

February 18, 12:50 PM • SW Portland Parenting Examiner • Sally Murdoch



the start of a fruit tree orchard  
courtesy of Fruit Tree 101

How cool would it be to have your kids eating fruit harvested from trees at school that your family helped plant? This is happening across the world, including in many Portland schools with [Fruit Tree 101](#), a program that brings fruit tree orchards to schoolyards so students get firsthand experience with gardening and improving air and water quality while providing them with the fruits of their labor, so to speak.

Fruit Tree 101 invites parents to submit an application for their children's schools in spaces that can accommodate 20-25 trees on school grounds (at 15 ft. intervals) near existing irrigation sources (e.g. spigot or sprinklers). Simply print out the [orchard grant application](#) and bring it to a school administrator. No matter the location, if the winning family's school is a suitable public school equipped with enough green space to sustain an orchard, you could help the environment and bring tasty treats to your children's classmates. If your school is chosen by the Fruit Tree 101, your family will also receive an individual fruit tree to be planted at or near your home, and enjoyed for years to come.

Some [orchards in Portland](#) grown with help from Fruit Tree 101 include the [Center for Research in Environmental Sciences & Technologies \(CREST\)](#) in West Linn, which was awarded 70 fruit trees and vines and environmental lessons for 20 students in October 2009. Fruit Tree 101 also helped one

of Portland's most high profile education gardens, the [Learning Gardens Laboratory](#), to plant 124 fruit trees and shrubs on the campus which serves 10 Portland area public schools with educational opportunities and harvest for school lunches in May-November 2007. Plants included almonds, filberts, figs, cherries, apples, Asian pears, persimmons, olives, aronia, seaberries, serviceberries and honeyberries. And here in SW Portland, [Tryon Life Community Farm](#) created a community orchard as a resource for improved nutrition in May 2007.

Fruit Tree 101 is a program of The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation nonprofit charity dedicated to planting edible, fruitful trees and plants to benefit the environment and all its inhabitants. It's made possible through the support of [Stretch Island Fruit Co.](#), makers of [FruitaBu](#) organic fruit snacks for kids, our neighbor to the north in appropriately named Grapeview, Washington.

In 2009, Fruit Tree 101 planted nearly 650 trees, which resulted in 90,675 pounds of oxygen and the ability to offset around 114,855 pounds of carbon dioxide from school grounds each year.