



## The Holistic Orchard

Tree Fruits and Berries the  
Biological Way

Michael Phillips

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“ Rooted in the author’s many years of organic orcharding experience, this book blends ideas from soil science, holistic health, permaculture, and traditional fruit growing into a powerful new approach to orchard design and care. Phillips’s first-hand knowledge anchors this innovative and highly readable book in practical wisdom that both beginner and long-time fruit growers will find invaluable.

—Toby Hemenway, author of *Gaia’s Garden: A Guide to Home-Scale Permaculture*

Growing a small-scale orchard of tree fruits and berries is something virtually anyone can do, given a bit of space and desire, and the willingness to observe and learn from nature. In this groundbreaking new book, orchard guru Michael Phillips (*The Apple Grower*) takes readers “beyond organic” and into the universe of holistic growing practices—a place where backyard and small commercial fruit growers maintain a balanced orchard ecology and don’t just substitute hard-hitting organic sprays for chemical “controls.”

Phillips unpacks and demystifies the basic knowledge every ecological fruit grower needs to have, including:

- Choosing the right varieties for your specific climate
- Basic horticultural skills like grafting, planting, and pruning
- Companion planting to encourage beneficial insects and control pests
- Fostering healthy microbes, in the soil and on the leaves, to prevent disease and grow delicious, nutrient-dense fruit.

Individual chapters touch upon all the major pome fruits (apple, Asian and European pear, and quince) and stone fruits (apricot, cherry, nectarine, peach, and plum), as well as woody berries (blackberry, blueberry, currant, elderberry, gooseberry, and raspberry).

This book will inspire the serious beginner who wants to grow healthy fruit and at the same time provides experienced growers with in-depth information and the latest science-based research on safe, home-grown solutions to pest and disease challenges.

*The Holistic Orchard* will forever change the way you look at fruit trees and berries, and the complex web of life that surrounds them.

“ *The Holistic Orchard* is a stimulating account of fruit production from a biological rather than chemical approach. Phillips’s orchard philosophy—learned from keen observation and reflection—will fall and clobber you like a giant Newtonian apple; then, your walk through the orchard will never be the same. Digesting this book is like tasting a delectable new apple variety for the first time.

—Tom Burford, orchard consultant, author, apple historian

“ “A new way of thinking is called for given the failure of chemicals to solve problems and feed the world. Mixing up dozens of organic thoughts, Michael Phillips ushers us into the 21st century and virtually creates a new language so we can really understand what is happening in our orchards. Shake off those 20th-century blues and let’s move on with *The Holistic Orchard* as a guiding light.

—Tim Bates, biodynamic orchardist, The Apple Farm, Philo, California



**Michael Phillips** is a farmer, writer, carpenter, orchard consultant, and speaker who lives with his wife, Nancy, and daughter, Grace, on Heartsong Farm in northern New Hampshire, where they grow apples and a variety of medicinal herbs. Michael authored *The Apple Grower* (Chelsea Green 2005) and teamed up with Nancy to write *The Herbalist’s Way* (Chelsea Green 2005). His Lost Nation Orchard is part of a diversified mountain farm in northern New Hampshire, and he also leads the community orchard movement at [www.GrowOrganicApples.com](http://www.GrowOrganicApples.com).

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