

## Espaliered Fruit Trees

Q: I tried to espalier some fruit trees. Went well, except no fruit, and despite scouring YouTube for information on what fruit buds look like, I still have no fruit at all. Any suggestions? They flower in the spring although I've never seen any flowers. They are facing south so get morning, noon, and afternoon sun, but no sun after around 3PM or so. I've pretty much abandoned the trees so they're all messed up. I was hoping maybe I could salvage them, but I'm starting to think that's not possible.

A: Don't give up on your fruit trees yet. Espaliering fruit trees get the same attention as regular fruit trees grown. However there is additional care and thought that goes into this neat growing approach. Check out this article provided by University of Vermont Extension Department of Plant and Soil Science <https://pss.uvm.edu/ppp/articles/espalier.html>

I also found this general tree brochure on the Texas A&M website, published by the Texas A&M Forest Service, "What's Wrong With My Tree". Would any of this apply to your trees?

[https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/TFS\\_Main/Urban\\_and\\_Community\\_Forestry/About\\_Urban\\_and\\_Community\\_Forestry/Urban\\_Forest\\_Information\\_Sheets/What's%20wrong%20with%20my%20Tree%20-%20Hasn't%20grown%20since%20planted.pdf](https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/TFS_Main/Urban_and_Community_Forestry/About_Urban_and_Community_Forestry/Urban_Forest_Information_Sheets/What's%20wrong%20with%20my%20Tree%20-%20Hasn't%20grown%20since%20planted.pdf)

If you are planning to espalier trees very close to the house, there may soil contamination from herbicides, foundation construction materials, or insect treatments that may be affecting growth.

You should get a soil sample to see if your soil needs amending or repair to help get the answer to this problem. Otherwise, you may get the same result if you try growing again in this location. I've attached some instructions on how to get samples or you can contact your local UT Extension office in Jonesborough to get help with sampling and sample submission to UT. Sampling costs around \$20 and the Extension office may even send it for you.

Washington County Extension Office

- 206 West Main Street
- Jonesborough, TN 37659-1230
- P: [423-753-1680](tel:423-753-1680)

Happy fall gardening from your friendly master gardener!