



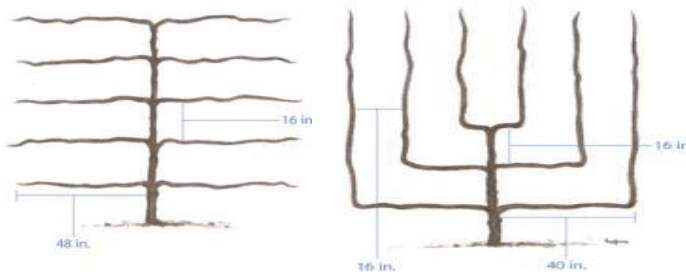
## ESPALIER

**Espalier:** tree or other plant that is trained to grow flat against a support (such as a trellis or wall). The term also denotes the trellis or other support on which such trees or plants are trained, as well as the method or technique itself. Espalier was developed in Europe to encourage fruit-tree production in an incompatible climate, and the technique originally employed a wall to provide necessary heat as well as support.

Espaliers use metal, wire, or wooden frames to create ornamental shapes for shrubbery or to train tree-growth on trellises, on stone, brick, or glass walls, or on fences. One method requires tip-pruning after the desired growth is reached, with auxiliary branches tied to a horizontal frame slightly above ground level. This is the method we have chosen to use. Evergreens such as loquat, fire thorn, sweet bay magnolia, and upright yew, as well as dwarf apple and pear trees, make excellent espaliers. (Encyclopedia Britannica)

Espalier trees lend a structural elegance to gardens. There are many different designs such as the candelabra or fan which are more elaborate and should be used as a focal point in the garden. The Horizontal or Cordon, such as the one in this garden, is the most common design normally measuring 6 feet wide by 6 feet tall. (Our structure is 7.5 feet wide and 7 feet tall).

The dwarf 'Little Gem' Magnolia has been selected for this garden. We began with a young tree about 6 feet tall and trimmed the front and rear branches, leaving the side branches we wanted to attach horizontally to the wires. As the tree grows, we will trim branches as needed to create the horizontal design. Once we have achieved 4-5 horizontal wires, we will prune the top of the tree to maintain the height of 7 feet.



Espalier Horizontal or Cordon

Espalier Candelabra



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