

Ladder Picker Job Description
Final
5/22/2019

Reports to: Lane Coordinator

Minimum Requirements:

- Must be at least 14 years of age
- Be in good health
- Able to carry a 10-20 pound bucket of fruit
- Able to walk and climb a ladder
- Able to raise arms above your head
- Have no open wounds
- Be aware of surroundings

Safety is first and foremost when picking fruit from a ladder

- Do not climb above the step marked with the red safety tape or higher than the third step from the top.
- Use the belt buckle rule for lateral movement. NEVER extend laterally beyond the ladder past your belt buckle. It's tempting to extend out to get one or two more pears, but please don't. Move the ladder and get as much fruit as possible within reach.
- When moving a ladder be aware of people around you.
- Maintain your balance on the ladder at all times.

- 1) Sign in and out at the sign in table.
- 2) Wash hands at the cleaning stations
- 3) Find a suitable bucket to wear. If unfamiliar with how to wear a bucket ask for help. For ladder picking a side bucket may work better than a front one.
- 4) Follow directions to the picking location – either walking or ride in the van
- 5) Pick the fruit gently.
 - For pears, use an upward twist of the pear. Generally the stem will break loose where it connects to the tree.
 - For peaches, use a twisting motion. The peach should separate from the tree.
- 6) Pick all fruit as high as you can reach while safely on the ladder. Ensure all fruit hiding inside the tree is picked.
- 7) Stay in the assigned lane when picking, reaching into the tree as far as safely possible to pick the fruit. Do not “circle” the tree to pick all sides. Only “single side” pick the tree.
- 8) If possible avoid cutting through the trees to switch lanes. Doing so exposes the individual to being scraped by the tree and of damaging the tree and the irrigation system.
- 9) If the fruit falls on the ground, leave it there. It will be bruised and possibly contaminated.
- 10) Empty the bucket into a bin gently, leaning over and minimizing the distance the fruit falls into the bin.
- 11) VERY IMPORTANT – DO NOT START A NEW BIN UNTIL THE CURRENT BIN IS FULL. If unsure, ask the lane coordinator
- 1) ALSO VERY IMPORTANT – DO NOT OVERFILL A BIN. Overfilling a bin damages the fruit on the bottom bin when they are stacked for storage and shipping. A properly filled bin is LEVEL and just slightly below the top lip of the bin. If unsure, ask a row coordinator.

- 12) If you need to use the bathroom while working, be sure to wash your hands before returning to work.
- 13) Keep hydrated. Water containers are distributed throughout the orchard. Take a break as often as needed to keep fresh.
- 14) Unless directed otherwise by a row coordinator or supervisor, leave the ladder where you are picking in the row when your shift is over.
- 15) Return your picking bucket to the proper bin at the sign in station.

- 16) Thank you for your service.