

Passing Tree Cheat Sheet

Each number corresponds to a different route, with the first number going to the x receiver, the second number corresponding to the y receiver, and the third corresponding to the z receiver. We'll get to what those letters mean in a second, but for now, here's a look at the simplest way for your QB to tell his receivers their assignments.

0 - The Drag Route

Also known as an in route, this is a very common and simple route. Just have the receiver run forward, less than five yards, and make a sharp angled cut towards the inside, running to the sideline.

1 - The Flat Route

Usually reserved for FBs and HBs, the flat route is a run parallel to the line of scrimmage out towards the sideline, looking back to the QB for a pass. This route is usually available as a safety net for the QB to check down to.

2 - The Slant Route

When you need a high percentage completion for solid yardage, the slant route and you will become fast friends. To perform it, have your receiver take 3 hard steps downfield before planting with their outside foot and quickly cutting to the center of the field.

3 - The Out Route

One of the most often used routes in the game, the out route is executed via a forward run of more than 5 and less than 10 yards, followed by a sharp 90° cut to the sideline.

4 - The Curl Route

Also called the comeback route, the receiver will sprint forward anywhere between 10 and 14 yards, then make a sharp cut back towards the QB, ready for the catch.

5 - The Deep Out Route

Using the same technique as the out, the only real difference between these two routes is that the deep out is run at 10 yards.

6 - The Deep In Route

This route is almost identical to the drag – you just make your cut inside at 10 yards instead. The receiver should be looking for soft spots behind or in front of the linebackers, reading the QB's throwing lanes.

7 - The Flag Route

Sometimes called a corner route, this route begins like the go route, with a straight out sprint. Then at about 15 yards fake a step inside as if running a post, and break back outside aiming for corner flag, or pylon at the back of the end zone.

8 - The Post Route

Here's a route that is very effective for big yardage against man coverage, or for splitting the safeties in a cover 2 defense. Simply run about 15 yards straight, and then cut inwards towards the goal post.

9 – The Go Route

Commonly known as a streak, or fly as well, the go route is a straight on sprint, and when completed, can often be a game-changing play. You want to use this route against tight coverage, and with only your fastest receivers.

