

Caring For Your Fruit Trees

A Step-by-Step Guide to Dormant Spraying

From the Professionals at



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Dormant Spraying Fruit Trees

The home orchard is one of the best sources of quality fruit there is. Dormant spraying is one of the safest and easiest ways to keep your trees healthy and productive. Here are some tips from **Four Seasons Nursery**.

Fall cleanup:



Leaves and debris left over from fall can be a source of over wintering insects and diseases. Cleaning under the trees is one of the best ways to avoid problems in spring. Clean up leftover fruit and fallen leaves. **Do not compost these near your orchard.** Keep weeds and grass away from the trees by hoeing them out or spraying them with **Hi-Yield Killzall**.

If you choose to spray, remember to keep spray from hitting the trees. When spraying, **always wear protective clothing and read the labels before mixing.**

Apples

Dormant spraying:

When to spray	What it controls	What to use
late winter (February)	mites, aphids, scale	Dormant spray oil
pre-pink bloom (Mar.)	scab, rust, mites, aphids, scale	lime sulfur & Dormant spray oil
pink buds (just before buds open)	scab, mildew	lime sulfur & Dormant spray oil
Petal fall	scab, rust, mites, aphids, scale	lime sulfur & Dormant spray oil
post-harvest	apple anthracnose	Copper fungicide

Summer to harvest:

Begin controlling codling moths with **Fertilome Fruit Tree Spray** 3 weeks after full bloom and every 2 weeks for a total of at least 4 sprays. Traps placed before fruit set can be used with some success if you decide not to spray.

Control apple maggots and aphids as needed with the same spray.

Pears

Dormant spraying:

When to spray	What it controls	What to use
late winter (February)	Pseudomonas blight	Copper fungicide
late winter (February)	scale, aphid, pear psylla, mites	Dormant spray oil
pre-pink bloom (Mar.)	scab, rust, mites, aphids, scale	lime sulfur & Dormant spray oil
pink buds (just before buds open)	scab, mildew	lime sulfur & Dormant spray oil
Petal fall (late Mar.-April)	scab, rust, mites, aphids, scale	lime sulfur & Dormant spray oil

Summer to harvest:

Remove and destroy all branches infected with fire blight (ask for description). Cut branches at least 12" below infected areas and disinfect tools with a 10% bleach solution between cuts. Fire blight is very hard to control. Control mites, scale and aphids as needed with insecticidal soap and codling moths the same way as apples.

Peaches and Nectarines

Dormant spraying:

When to spray	What it controls	What to use
Mid December	leaf curl, coryneum	copper fungicide
Early January	leaf curl, coryneum	copper fungicide
Late February	aphids, mites, scale	Dormant Spray Oil
Bloom stage	brown rot, blossom blight	Fertilome Liquid Fungicide
one week after petal fall	coryneum blight	Fertilome Fruit tree spray
post harvest at leaf fall	coryneum twig blight	copper fungicide

Summer to harvest:

Controlling peach twig borer and peach tree borer can be accomplished. See a **Four Seasons Nursery** professional for advice. To control brown rot, remove any fallen or rotted fruit before harvest and destroy it.

Cherries:

Dormant spraying:

When to spray	What it controls	What to use
late winter (February)	mites, aphids, scale	Dormant spray oil
Bloom stage (weekly while in bloom)	brown rot, blossom blight	Fertilome Liquid Fungicide
Petal fall	aphids, leafrollers, leaf spot, brown rot	Fertilome Fruit Tree Spray

Summer to harvest:

Control cherry fruit fly with **Fertilome Fruit Tree Spray** every 7-14 days beginning in late May. **Fertilome Fruit Tree Spray** will also control aphids and mites as needed through out the season.

Plums and Prunes:

When to spray	What it controls	What to use
late winter (February)	mites, aphids, scale	Dormant spray oil
Bloom stage (weekly while in bloom)	brown rot, blossom blight	Fertilome Liquid Fungicide
Petal fall	aphids, leafrollers, leaf spot, brown rot	Fertilome Fruit Tree Spray

Apricots:

Dormant spraying:

NEVER USE SULFUR PRODUCTS ON APRICOTS!

When to spray	What it controls	What to use
late winter (February)	mites, scale	Dormant spray oil
Bloom stage (weekly while in bloom)	brown rot,	Fertilome Liquid Fungicide

For Best Results, Use These Quality Brands:



Hi-Yield Lime Sulfur – a quality lime-sulfur mix for controlling diseases during the dormant season.

Hi-Yield Dormant Spray Oil – a parafinic oil that coats over wintering insects and their eggs suffocating and killing them. It also helps stick the lime sulfur to the tree.



Fertilome Fruit Tree Spray – a combination of Neem Oil and Pyrethrin for safe control of most insect and disease problems during the growing season.



Fertilome Broad Spectrum Fungicide – a broad spectrum fungicide for control of most disease and fungal problems throughout the growing season.

Fertilizing Fruit Trees:

The best hedge against disease and insect problems is healthy, vigorous growth. Fertilize your fruit trees twice per year using

Fertilome Tree and Shrub Food.

Apply when the trees fully leaf out (usually in April) and again the end of August.



A Note About Borers:

Borers are insects whose larvae bore into the bark of the tree and feed on the inside layer called the cambium. They can kill a tree quickly and there is little that can be done to control them. Discourage them by painting the trunks of your trees with a flat white latex paint from the ground to the first branch. **DO NOT USE AN OIL-BASED PAINT!** For more information, contact a **Four Seasons Nursery** professional.