

Dormant Disease & Insect Control

Deciduous fruit trees such as apples, apricots, cherries, figs, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums & persimmons all will benefit from a simple prevention program. For simplicity, we often speak of the three holidays of Thanksgiving, New Year's Day and Valentine's as good target dates for general dormant spraying. If in doubt, spray these days.

CLEAN UP YOUR GARDEN

Debris will harbor insects and diseases. An excellent general garden clean-up, removing leaves, spent flower heads, old fruit nuts, dead and broken branches eliminating insect and disease hiding places. Although a potential problem in the garden, these materials are perfect candidates for the compost pile. Composting generates sufficient heat to kill insects, their eggs, and diseases. For more information, come into the nursery and ask for our brochure on Garden Composting.

PREVENTATIVE SPRAYING PROGRAM



Fall (About Thanksgiving)

Properly timed spraying will help eliminate the chance of disease infestation in spring and summer. The first spraying should be just before or at leaf fall (about mid-November in a period of dry weather). A second spraying one week later helps ensure complete coverage. Control Peach leaf curl before the disease microorganism has an opportunity to flourish with winter moisture. The plant's bark contracts with the onset of cold weather sealing in disease-causing microorganisms such as shot hole fungus and peach leaf curl. We advise spraying before heavy frost or freezing weather arrives. Spray with **Monterey Liqui-Cop** or **Bonide Liquid Copper Spray**. If rains occur, reapply spray.

Winter (About New Years)

Within January, most fruit trees will benefit from one or two sprayings of **Bonide All Seasons Horticultural & Dormant Spray Oil** or **Monterey Horticultural Oil** to control aphids, scale, and mites, and some other insects (smothering overwintering eggs.) This January 1st and 15th application is optional if pests have not been a problem in the past. Apply **Go Natural Tree Trunk Paint** or 50% diluted interior latex paint to the trunk of trees. Apply from 2" below the soil surface, up the trunk and a little way into the lower branches. Tree trunk paint protects from sunburn as well as helps with the prevention of borers.



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981 Alden Lane · Livermore, CA 94550 · (925) 447-0280 · aldenlane.com

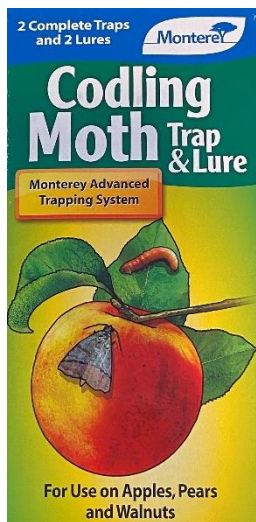
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Dormant Disease & Insect Control (cont'd)

February into Spring (About Valentine's Day)

The timing of spring sprayings for various fruit trees can be crucial.

- Control Leaf curl on nectarines and peaches is with an application of **Monterey Liqui-Cop** or **Bonide Liquid Copper Spray** when flower buds swell but before they show any color.
- To control brown rot and shot hole fungus on stone fruits, spray with fungicides mentioned above when the buds crack and show color, then again two weeks later.
- For control of fire blight in apples and pears, (If your trees have a history of fire blight,) Spray with a diluted copper fungicide fungicides as mentioned above every five days during the bloom cycle.



Additional spring spraying will minimize wormy apples & pears. To correctly time these sprayings, hang **Codling Moth Traps** in one of your fruit trees at blossom time. When codling moths first appear (usually when about 3/4 of the flower petals have fallen from the tree), wait one week and spray weekly **with Captain Jack's Insect Spray** (Spinosad) mixed with **Bonide All Seasons Horticultural & Dormant Spray Oil** for 2-3 weeks. Replace traps monthly and repeat spray regime after new generations of moths are trapped.

For detailed information about specific plants or pests, see the University Cooperative Extension website at <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/fruit.html>



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