

Take care of your fruit trees and they'll take care of you! In addition to regular watering and monitoring for problems, schedule a few chores throughout the year to optimize the health and productivity of your home orchard.

## Peaches, Nectarines, Nectaplums

**Feeding** – Fertilize with *E.B. Stone Citrus & Fruit Tree Food* in spring when trees begin to leaf out. Repeat after fruit has set, & again after harvest.

**Pruning** – Prune for structure after leaves have dropped, in December or January. Prune for size control in summer after fruit has set. For more information, see our care sheet *Growing a Successful Backyard Orchard*, or sign up for one of our January pruning seminars.

**Control peach leaf curl** – A serious disease on peaches and related fruit, leaf curl should be treated preventively every year, during the dormant season. Spray with *Natural Guard Copper Soap Fungicide* (for organic gardening) or *Liqui-Cop Copper Fungicide*. Spraying also controls brown rot, blossom blight, and shothole disease.

- If using *Copper Soap* spray at 10% leaf fall and 80% leaf fall. Make additional applications at bud swell, pink stage (sometimes called popcorn or first pink), full bloom, and petal fall.
- If using *Liqui-Cop* spray when most of the leaves have fallen. Reapply in January and make a third application in February.



Peach leaf curl

Bud swell on peach



Pink stage on peach



**Pest Control** – If aphids or scale were a problem last year, control overwintering stages by spraying with PestFighter Year-Round Spray Oil. Apply when temperatures are above 45°.

**Clean up:** Sanitation is key to preventing next year's pests and diseases. Pick up and dispose of fallen leaves, twigs, and fruit.

## Almonds, Apricots, Cherries, Plums

**Feeding** – Fertilize with *E.B. Stone Citrus & Fruit Tree Food* in spring when trees begin to leaf out. Repeat after fruit has set & again after harvest.

### Pruning

- Prune almonds and plums for structure after leaves have dropped, in December or January. Prune for size control in summer after fruit has set. For more information, see our care sheet *Growing a Backyard Orchard* or sign up for one of our January pruning seminars.
- Prune apricots and cherries in summer, after harvest; These fruit trees are susceptible to limb dieback from *Eutypa* fungus, which spreads during fall and winter rains.

**Control brown rot blossom blight:** Spray with Natural Guard Copper Soap Fungicide at popcorn (white bud), full bloom, and petal fall.

### Pest Control

- Aphids, scale - Control overwintering stages by spraying with PestFighter Year-Round Spray Oil once in December or January. Apply when temperatures are above 45°.
- Plum leaf curl aphid - Spray with PestFighter or Neem Oil in November and once or twice during the bloom period. Spray when bees aren't visiting the area.



Apricot at popcorn stage

**Clean up:** Sanitation is critical for preventing next year's pests and diseases. Pick up and dispose of fallen leaves, twigs, and fruit.

## Apples & Pears

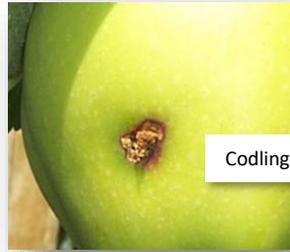
**Feeding:** Fertilize with *E.B. Stone Citrus & Fruit Tree Food* in spring when trees begin to leaf out. Repeat after fruit has set, & again after harvest.

**Control codling moth:** Start monitoring for codling moth – the infamous “worm in the apple” – in mid-March by hanging Codling Moth Traps as high as possible in the tree. Spray with Captain Jack’s one week after the first adult moths are caught, then spray one or two more times at 10-14 day intervals. Remove, bag, and dispose of any fruit with evidence of codling moth “stings”, which are the entry points for larvae.

Codling moth larva in apple



Codling moth “sting”



### Pruning:

- Prune for structure after leaves have dropped, in December or January. If pruning out damage from fire blight, cut 8-12 inches below diseased tissue. Sterilize your shears after each cut by dipping in a solution of 1 ounce bleach in 9 ounces of water.
- Prune for size control in summer after fruit has set. For more information, see our care sheet *Growing a Successful Backyard Orchard* or sign up for one of our January pruning seminars.

**Control fire blight** – Fire blight invades through flowers and tender shoots. Spray with *Liqui-Cop* or *Copper Soap Fungicide* when blossoms begin to open and repeat weekly until petals have dropped. Prune blight-damaged wood during the dormant season as directed above.

Fire blight



**Cleanup:** Sanitation is key to preventing next year’s pests and diseases. Pick up and dispose of fallen leaves, twigs, and fruit.

## Citrus

### Feeding:

- February-September - Fertilize with *Master Nursery Citrus Food* or *E.B. Stone Organics Citrus & Fruit Tree Food* every 6-8 weeks for a total of 3-4 applications. Supplement with *Iron Plus* if citrus shows signs of iron or magnesium deficiency, indicated by yellowing leaves with green veins (chlorosis). Chlorosis can occur even if citrus is fertilized regularly, especially with organic fertilizers which don’t contain magnesium and iron.
- October-January – Feed with *Master Bloom* or *Ultra Bloom* monthly. These fertilizers contain phosphorus and potassium to improve fruit yield and sweetness. They are formulated without nitrogen so won’t promote new growth that may be susceptible to frost damage.

Iron deficiency



Magnesium deficiency



**Pruning** – Prune after danger of frost, mid to late March in our area.

**Frost protection** – In winter, when temperatures are predicted to drop below 32°, protect citrus from frost. See our care sheet *Growing Citrus* for more information.

**Control Citrus Leafminer:** Although citrus is generally pest resistant, citrus leafminer has become a serious pest in recent years. Spray with *Captain Jack’s* when citrus is flushing new growth, typically in April, and repeat every two weeks. Do not exceed 6 applications per season.

Leafminer damage on citrus

