

Calendar of Backyard Gardening Operations for Selected Temperate Fruit and Nut Trees

Fruit or Nut	Winter Dormant Season	Spring Bloom Season	Summer Growing Season	Fall Harvest Season
Apple	Spray trees w/ dormant oil to control San Jose scale, aphid eggs, mite eggs. Prune 15-20% last year's growth to let light in. Remove diseased/broken limbs.	Spray trees with a fungicide to control apple scab and powdery mildew at green tip stage, pink bud stage, and at 10-day intervals thereafter until rain stops. Thin apples by hand w/in 30-60 days after full bloom to about 1 per 6" of shoot growth. Fertilize prior to first irrigation. Mature trees: use 2 lb. urea or 40 lb. manure spread on the surface	Fertilize young irrigated trees monthly (April-July). Use 8 oz. urea or 20 lb. manure/tree. Water in. Do not exceed 1 oz. urea/emitter/appl. Spray (May 1-Sept.1) to control codling moth worms; time sprays to visual ID of worm holes in fruit. Control aphids if damage exceeds 50% leaves crinkled and aphids present. Control mites if damage is severe. Drip irrigate daily or sprinkler irrigate every 2-3 weeks	Continue irrigating, fertilize mature trees after harvest. Repeat rates from summer. At leaf fall, remove and destroy or compost leaves to prevent the spread of apple scab. Control weeds throughout the entire season with an organic mulch.
Pear	Spray trees w/ dormant oil to control San Jose scale, aphid eggs, mite eggs, and overwintering adult pear psylla. Prune 20% last year's growth to let light in. Remove diseased (fire blighted) and broken limbs.	Spray trees with a fungicide to control pear scab at green tip stage, full bloom and at 10-day intervals until rain stops. Thin pears to 6" apart if crop is heavy. Fertilize prior to first irrigation. Apply 1.5 lb. urea or 40 lb. manure.	Fertilize young trees monthly using half spring rates. Spray monthly (May 1-Aug.1) to control codling moth worms. Time sprays to visual ID of worm holes in fruit. Control aphids if damage exceeds 50% leaves crinkled and aphids present. Drip irrigate daily or sprinkler irrigate every 2-3 weeks.	Using spring rates, fertilize and irrigate mature trees right after harvest. Clean up fallen fruit to reduce codling moth. At leaf fall, remove and destroy or compost leaves to prevent the spread of apple scab.
Peach and Nectarine	Spray trees w/ dormant oil to control San Jose scale. Spray fixed copper to control peach leaf curl 12/1 & 2/1. Prune out 50% of last year's wood to thin the crop, insure good shoot growth and fruiting potential for future years	Apply fungicide during bloom to prevent brown rot, which may require 1-3 sprays, depending on weather. Rainy periods require more spray. Fertilize young trees monthly w/ high N fertilizer beginning 4/1. Use 0.5 lb. urea or 25 lb. manure/appl./tree. Mature trees need 50% more. Water fertilizer in. Do not exceed 1 oz. urea/emitter/mo. Thin fruits to about 6" apart when marble-sized. Thinning reduces fruit #, increases size, prevents limb breakage.	Fertilize young trees monthly. Use 0.5 lb. urea or 25 lb. manure/tree/appl. Mature trees need 50% more. Water fertilizer in. Do not exceed 1 oz. urea/emitter/mo. Drip irrigate daily or sprinkler irrigate about every 3 weeks. Maintain a weed free area around the base of the trees within 3' of the trunk with an organic mulch 3-4" deep	Spray for shot hole fungus in Nov. before first heavy rain; use fixed copper. Fertilize and irrigate just after harvest. Remove mummies from tree.
Apricot	Spray trees w/ dormant oil to control San Jose scale, aphid eggs, mite eggs, and peach twig borer. Do not use sulfur on apricots, ever.	Spray to control brown rot & shot hole fungus as blooms start to open. Sprays may be required @ 10-14 day intervals if weather is rainy. Drip irrigate daily or sprinkler irrigate Every 2-3 weeks. Fertilize before 1st irrigation w/ 1-2 lb. of urea. Water in. Thin fruits to about 4-6" apart when 1/2-5/8" diameter. Paint trunks w/ 50/50 mix of white interior latex paint & water to prevent sunburn & borer infestation.	Continue same irrigation schedule as in spring. Fertilize young trees monthly at 1/4 spring rates to encourage vigorous growth.	Prune trees before onset of winter rains to prevent <i>Eutypa</i> fungus infection of pruning wounds. Remove about 20% last year's growth to let light into tree. Remove old, broken, diseased branches. Spray trees during or after leaf fall but before onset of winter rains to control shot hole fungus. Do not use sulfur on apricots use fixed copper.

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Plum and Prune	Spray trees w/ dormant oil to control San Jose scale, aphid eggs, mite eggs. Prune 20% last year's growth to let light in. Remove diseased/broken limbs.	Spray trees with a fungicide to control brown rot as blossoms appear. 2-3 sprays may be needed if weather is rainy, cloudy. Fertilize mature trees, use 1-2 lb. urea or 20-40 lb. manure/tree. Irrigate about every 2-3 weeks or drip irrigate every day. Fertilize trees just prior to irrigation. Use lower rates for vigorous trees. Thin fruits to about 4-6" apart. If larger fruit is desired, leave fewer fruit. Control aphids if severe damage (50% leaves curled and aphids present).	Fertilize young trees monthly (April-July) Use 4-8 oz. urea or 10-20 lb. manure/appl. Water in. Do not exceed 1 oz. urea/emitter/appl. Drip irrigate daily or sprinkler irrigate about every 2-3 weeks. Maintain the area within 3' of the tree free from weeds with an organic mulch.	Fertilize and irrigate trees just after harvest w/ 1-2 lb. urea or 20-40 lb. manure/mature tree. At leaf fall or before major rains, spray to prevent shot hole fungus with fixed copper.
Almond	Prune trees in Dec./Jan. to allow more light into tree, promote growth of new fruiting wood. Remove dead, diseased, drooping branches and "suckers" in center of tree. Remove, destroy all old nuts on trees and on ground to reduce overwintering navel orangeworms. Spray trees w/ dormant oil to kill peach twig borer, San Jose scale, and mite eggs.	Just prior to 1st irrigation, fertilize mature trees w/ 2lb urea or 30 lb. of manure, water in. Young trees: Use small, frequent doses of N throughout the growing season. Drip irrigate daily to meet daily tree needs. Sprinkler irrigate every 1-3 wk starting 2-3 wk after winter rains. Apply 2-3" water/irrigation. Trees growing in shallow or sandy soils need more frequent watering.	Continue irrigating as during spring bloom season. Fertilize trees again at same rate as spring appl. just prior to last irrigation before harvest. Water in. Nuts are ready for harvest after hulls split and shell is dry and brown. Separate hulls from nut and discard. Nuts can be in shell or out. Freeze in-shell nuts for 1-2 wk to kill resident worms. Store in plastic bags to prevent reinfestation.	Spray trees during or after leaf fall but before onset of winter rains to reduce damage from shot hole fungus the following spring, use fixed copper.
Walnut	Prune trees by thinning out crowded areas to let light into whole tree. Remove broken, dead branches. Spray trees w/ dormant oil to control scale insects, if needed.	Spray for blossom blight when female flowers appear (tiny nuts w/ feathery pistil) and at 7 day intervals until rainy weather stops. Blight appears as black blossom ends of nuts in June and later as black hollow nuts. Remove all weeds from tree base to reduce competition and pest problems. Fertilize mature trees w/ 5-7 lb. urea or 90-150 lb. manure.	Keep tree base dry to reduce crown rot problems. Irrigate trees at the drip line but away from trunks. Sprinkler irrigate w/ about 3" water every 3-4 wk or drip irrigate daily during May-Oct. Young, small trees will need 4-12 gal water/day; large trees about 20-40 gal/day. Spray for walnut husk fly about Aug. 1 and Aug. 15. Damage is cosmetic, control is optional. Spray to control codling moth worms or tolerate damage.	Harvest nuts by shaking or poling the tree when green hulls begin to break away from the shell. Nuts are fully mature at this stage. If left on the tree or allowed to fall on their own, the hulls will rot and stick to the shell. Hull nuts, freeze in shell nuts to kill resident worms & store in plastic.
Olive	Spray with fixed copper to prevent Peacock spot especially in wet years For oil varieties apply just after harvest	Prune trees during the bloom period. To reduce alternate bearing, remove more shoots from trees with heavy bloom and skip trees with light bloom. Fertilize mature trees with 2 lbs. of urea or 50 lbs. of compost. Begin irrigating trees so there is no water stress during bloom.	Control weeds with organic mulch or cultivation especially on young trees. Fertilize young trees with 1 oz of urea under each drip emitter every month and irrigate in. Apply drip irrigation every day according to water use requirements.	For table fruit, harvest when the fruit is Still green, just before the straw yellow stage. For oil, harvest when the fruit has turned black on the outside, but the flesh is still green/yellow. Continue irrigation right up to harvest if weather is dry; do not allow fruit to shrivel. Apply fixed copper to prevent peacock spot before first major fall rains. Wash copper off fruit prior to processing or apply after harvest.

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Fruit or Nut	Winter Dormant Season	Spring Bloom Season	Spring/ Summer Harvest Season	Summer/Fall Tree Growth
Cherry	Spray w/ dormant oil to control San Jose scale. Prune 10% of last year's growth on mature trees to let light in. Remove broken, diseased branches. Cherries may do better against bacterial canker (gummosis) if treated with fixed copper spray.	Apply fungicide to control brown rot at popcorn and full bloom stages. Fertilize non-irrigated mature trees just before or during a rain w/ about 2 lb. urea or 70 lb. manure. Irrigated trees are fertilized just before an irrigation.	Cover trees w/ bird netting to control birds. Drip irrigate daily w/ amount equal to size of tree. Sprinkler irrigate about every 2-3 wk w/ 3-5" water/irrigation, depending on soil depth and water use. After harvest, fertilize mature trees with 2 lb. urea and water in immediately.	Irrigate to maintain good tree vigor through summer heat and into fall until winter rain takes over. Drip irrigate daily to match daily use. Sprinkler irrigate every 3-4 wk to wet all soil in root zone but stop Sept. 1 to prevent root rot.

From Growing Temperate Tree Fruit and Nut Crops in the Home Garden, Paul Vossen and Deborah Silver, Sonoma and Marin Co. UCCE.