



Organic Pest & Disease Control for Apples/Pears

The major problem affecting apples/pears/walnuts in our region is the insect commonly known as Codling Moth (*Cydia pomonella*). They hatch 2-4 weeks after the tree hits full bloom, and have a 6 week life cycle. There can often be three generations throughout the season, creating the need to monitor and treat trees for at least 18 weeks after the first pests are detected. We highly recommend using codling moth traps to determine exact hatch in your location. Traps can be used throughout the season to monitor activity, or you can systematically spray every two weeks. Avoid spraying when flowers are present to protect bees. Best time to spray is near dusk.

There are several other pests and diseases affecting this family of fruit trees, but this care sheet is designed to address the most commonly seen issue and give guidance on prevention. If you have further questions, please bring pictures and samples to us to examine.

Feb/ March - before trees break dormancy



- Prune
- Apply dormant oil to trunk and branches to target overwintering insects.
- Try to spray before noon on to allow drying, and reapply if rain occurs within 24 hrs. Ideally, tree is mostly dry before spraying.



Beginning Late Spring/ Early Summer

Starting 2- 4weeks after full bloom

SPRAY TIMING IS CRITICAL

- Set out codling **moth traps** to monitor for activity after petal drop.
- When moths are detected in traps, start spraying using product containing **Spinosad**. Spray 2x more in 2 week intervals. Set out new traps to monitor for signs of next life cycle, and repeat treatment.
- Do not spray when trees are blooming, and ideally wait until after sunset.

Alternative to spraying

- As soon as fruit is visible, thin to 1 apple per cluster, then wrap with fruit socks or paper sacks



Ongoing prevention and Sanitation

- Apply beneficial nematodes on trunk and soil to dripline in spring and fall, when soil temps are between 50°–70°F.
- Keep fruit cleaned up off ground and remove any fruit showing entry site damage, or “stings”.
- In-season, you can band tree trunks with a 6” strip of cardboard to trap larvae as they try to burrow.





Organic Pest & Disease Control for **Stone Fruits**

Stone fruits encompass trees in the Prunus family such as cherries, peaches, plums, apricots, and nectarines. Generally, all fruits containing a central pit (or stone) would fall into this category. Main pests and disease for stone fruits in the Treasure Valley are Peachtree Borer (*Synanthedon exitiosa*), which attack the trunk, Cherry fruit Fly (*Rhagoletis indifferens* Curran) which attacks ripening cherries, and a fungal disease called Peach Leaf Curl.

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Feb/ March - *before trees break dormancy*

- Prune
- Apply dormant oil to trunk and branches to target overwintering insects.
- Try to spray before noon to allow drying, and reapply if rain occurs within 24 hrs. Ideally, tree is mostly dry before spraying.
- To prevent peach leaf curl, as close to bud break as possible (see pic to right), spray with fungicide such as organic copper spray, or biological like Monterey Disease Control (*Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*).



Beginning Late Spring/ Early Summer

- Inspect for borer damage in trunk of tree, particularly within the first two feet from the ground
- If you find evidence of borer damage (see pic to left), spray with orchard spray containing Neem, Pyrethrins or Spinosad.
- Apply beneficial nematodes to soil surrounding base of tree.



Cherry fruit fly control

- The insect causing cherry worms is the Cherry Fruit Fly or *Rhagoletis indifferens* Curran,
- Fruit flies lay eggs that will eventually turn into worms when fully formed fruits begin to turn color.
- Spray entire tree at dusk with product containing Spinosad once you notice fruit beginning to turn color, and repeat treatment weekly until harvest (about 3 times).

