

JUST THE BASICS: Current Treatments

GENERAL

- Clean up all fallen fruit and weeds to reduce pest pressure for next year, as well as rodent habitat.
- Make sure all new plantings get white tree paint or tree wrap from Dec through early April to prevent sun scald.
- Give trees a good watering before the ground freezes.

APPLE & PEAR


- Apply lime-sulfur when the first leaves start turning color to control blister mites.


- To reduce codling moth for next year, remove bins from the orchard after harvest and clean up and destroy fallen fruit on the ground.

PEACH/NECTARINE

- Prevent new coryneum blight (shothole) infections this fall by applying copper to trees when 50% of leaves have fallen.

Insect and Disease Information

 : information for residential settings

 : information for commercial orchards

APPLE & PEAR

Codling Moth



Hosts: apple, pear

Remove apple bins from the orchard after harvest.



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Hopefully everyone had or is having a good apple harvest, with worm-free apples. There are steps you can take this fall to further reduce the codling moth population:

- Remove all fallen and infested fruit still on the tree.

(This should be done all season, and is more practical for backyard growers.)

- This winter, remove unwanted or unmanaged apple trees that serve as hosts.
- Commercial growers should remove bins from the orchard and store off-site, if possible, as they often harbor overwintering larvae.

As harvest continues, evaluate those areas of your orchard that see the most damage: are they border trees? are they near external sources of infestation? do you see a pattern?

Next season, pay close attention to those problem spots. Hang a monitoring trap there to determine pest pressure. Spot treatments may be necessary, or growers using mating disruption may consider doubling the application rate on border trees or hot spots.

Blister Mites

Hosts: apple, pear

Blister mites belong to a group of mites called eriophyid mites (air-ee-oh-FYE-id). They are so small that they are invisible to the naked eye, but their feeding can cause visible symptoms. Usually, they do not warrant treatment. In fact, because these mites are one of the first to emerge in spring, they serve as an

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Blister mites cause early fall color change and leaf drop.

important food source for beneficial (predatory) mites that start activity before spider mites.

Blister mites cause small raised “blisters” on the leaves of pear and apple, which—by the middle of summer—look like brown or black leaf spots. In the fall, infested leaves will change color and drop before uninfested leaves.

A good time to treat blister mites is in early fall, just as the leaves start to turn color; when the mites are migrating to leaf buds to spend the winter under the bud scales.

Options to use for blister mites include (only if necessary):

- 1.5-2% oil, thoroughly covering the bottoms of the leaves
- Sevin (carbaryl), alone or with 1% oil
- lime-sulfur (can mix with oil, but not on drought-stressed trees)

PEACH/NECTARINE/CHERRY

Coryneum Blight

Hosts: peach/nectarine, plum, apricot

It is approaching time for fall treatment of coryneum blight. This disease affects many parts of the tree, including buds, small twigs, leaves, and fruit.

New infections on buds happen in the fall. When leaves drop, they leave a small open scar, and if any spores land on those scars under the right weather conditions, the fungus will invade the tissue and kill the bud. It is these bud infections that then lead to new leaf and fruit infections the following spring.



New infections occur in the fall on leaf scars, so be sure that the spray at 50% leaf drop covers these areas, and is sprayed with force to knock down the remaining leaves and cover those scars, too.



Therefore, the optimal timing to apply a fall copper or fungicide application is approximately 50% leaf drop. It is at this point that exposed scars can be protected, and by using a high pressure sprayer, the remaining leaves will be blown off so that the rest of the leaf scars are also covered by the spray.

Options for the fall coryneum blight treatment include:

- fixed coppers or copper sulfate (Kocide, C-O-C-S, Bonide, Lily Miller Microcop, etc.)
- chlorothalonil

If any trees or orchards have severe infections, it will take at least three years of diligent fall, spring, and growing season treatments to suppress the disease incidence.

Bacterial Canker

Hosts: sweet cherry, peach (rarely)

Bacterial canker is a disease of young sweet cherry trees, or cherries affected by winter injury or other factors that cause wounds. The bacteria invade bark and phloem tissue, causing cankers that can grow to eventually kill large branches or the entire tree.

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Sweet cherries that show oozing buds and twigs in association with clusters of dead leaves typically means an infection by bacterial canker.

Like with coryneum blight, new infections can enter trees through leaf scars in the fall. Research out of Oregon State University has shown that an application of fixed copper or Bordeaux Mixture in mid to late October can help reduce the incidence of this disease the following spring.



Production Information

FALL ORCHARD CHORES

Keep roots moist: At this time of year, leaves on trees are changing color and dropping, while underground, major root growth is occurring. So it is important to maintain adequate but not excessive soil moisture from now until the soil freezes for the winter.

Do not fertilize now: Roots will continue to grow all through fall, but nutrient uptake essentially ceases after the leaves have dropped. It is too late for any fall fertilizer applications, as whatever is applied will leach out of the soil.

Tree removal: Trees suffering from significant insect, disease, or other problems should be removed now. There is still time to install a replacement planting.

Protect from mice, voles: Create or maintain at least 3 feet of clear space from around the base of each tree to help minimize these rodents from feeding on bark and roots. Young trees are particularly susceptible to girdling because their trunk circumference is so small. Consider installing a physical barrier around the trunk and down into the soil up to 6 inches.

Prevent winter sunscald: In late winter, bark can be warmed by intense sunlight. If this warming is followed by a cold spell that night, the bark can be killed.



This apple tree was affected by sunscald many years ago that later served as an entry for a canker disease.

Sunscald is one of the primary problems affecting young trees in Utah and is a major factor in the incidence of cytospora canker or flatheaded borers. Protect trunks by applying white tree wrap or painting the trunk and lower scaffold limbs with a 1:1 mixture of white latex paint to water. If using tree wrap, remove it early April.

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