



YOUR ORCHARD, MONTH BY MONTH

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Monthly Orchard Schedule:

January:

- Prune all Fruit Trees except Apples, Peaches, Nectarines, and Plums.
- Watch for freezes; protect Citrus, Fig, Pomegranate and Olive trees as needed.
- Apply limb spreaders or peg trees to develop more open branching patterns.

February:

- In mid February fertilize all fruit trees. Apply manure or compost under the tree canopy.
- In late February, prune Apples, Peaches, Nectarines and Plums.
- Watch for freezes; protect Citrus, Fig, Pomegranate and Olive trees as needed.

March:

- Mulch under trees before spring weeds emerge. Remove all grass from under the trees canopy.

- Prune Citrus, pomegranate and Figs after new growth emerges.
- After Bloom, apply Pyrethrin/Neem Oil spray to Peaches, Plums and Nectarines.
- Apply Liquid Copper/Neem Oil Spray to Apples and Pears.
- Apply Spinosad spray to young 1 to 3 year old Citrus when a new flushes of growth are 2-3 inches long and again when flush is 6-8 inches long.
- Watch for late freezes; protect Citrus, Fig, Pomegranate and Olive trees as needed.

April:

- Apply Wettable Sulfur spray to Peaches, Plums, Nectarines and Apples.

May:

- Fertilize entire Orchard.
- Apply Pyrethrin/Neem Oil spray to Peaches, Plums, Nectarines and Apples.
- Apply Liquid Copper/Neem Oil to Pears, Figs and Persimmons.
- Apply Spinosad spray to young 1 to 3 year old Citrus when a new flushes of growth are 2-3 inches long and again when flush is 6-8 inches long.

June:

- Apply Wettable Sulfur spray to Peaches, Plums and Nectarines.
- Apply Liquid Copper/Neem Oil to Pears, Figs and Persimmons.

Apply Spinosad spray to young 1 to 3 year old Citrus when a new flushes of growth are 2-3 inches long and again when flush is 6-8 inches long

- If needed, do your heavy prune on Citrus trees only.

July:

- Fertilize entire Orchard in late July.
- Apply Pyrethrin/Neem Oil spray on Peaches, Plums and Nectarines.

- Apply Spinosad spray to young 1 to 3 year old Citrus when a new flushes of growth are 2-3 inches long and again when flush is 6-8 inches long
- Apply Spinosad spray to trunks and lower limbs of Peaches, Plums and Nectarines.
- Apply Liquid Copper/Neem Oil to Pears, Figs and Persimmons.

August:

- Apply Pyrethrin/Neem Oil spray to Peaches, Plums and Nectarines.
- Apply Spinosad spray to trunks and lower limbs of Peaches, Plums and Nectarines.
- Watch for Mites; use Rotenone/Pyrethrum spray if necessary.
- Apply Spinosad spray to young 1 to 3 year old Citrus when a new flushes of growth are 2-3 inches long and again when flush is 6-8 inches long

September:

- Watch for Mites; use Rotenone/Pyrethrum spray if necessary.

October:

- Build cages for freeze-protection of Citrus.
- Paint trunks and lower limbs of deciduous fruit trees with diluted white interior latex paint for sun scald injury protection.
- Watch for early frosts; protect Citrus, Fig, Pomegranate and Olive trees as needed.
- Plant cover crops through out the orchard to build next season soil. Clover, vetch, iron peas and rye.

November:

- Watch for freezes; protect Citrus, Fig, Pomegranate and Olive trees as needed.

December:

- Watch for freezes; protect Citrus, Fig, Pomegranate and Olive trees as needed.
- Apply Dormant Oil/Neem Spray to all trees except Citrus.
- Paint trunks with a watered down interior latex paint.

Sanitation in the Orchard

- *Prune out and destroy all dead and diseased branches as soon as possible.
- *Gather and destroy spoiled fruit daily.
- *Keep pathways mowed.
- *Keep pruners and saws sharp and clean.
- *Sterilize pruning shears and saws between each tree.
- *Apply new mulch each year under the trees to bury fruit rot spores.

Tips for a Good Spray Program

- *Read and follow all manufacturer's instructions and warnings.
- *Always wear protective clothing and a respirator when handling chemicals.
- *Never use herbicides in sprayers used for disease and pest control.
- *Do not apply Sulfur or Oil Sprays when temperature is below 40°F or above 85° F.
- *Spray thoroughly to cover all parts of the tree, undersides as well as tops of leaves. Spray until a noticeable amount begins to drip from the tree.
- *Keep mixtures shaken or stirred during use, so that chemicals do not settle out.
- *Mix fresh spray for each application. Add chemicals to a little water in a small container and stir well. Strain the mixture through a screen before pouring into sprayer. Always use clean water. Safely discard leftover spray mixtures; never save to use next time.
- *Never spray insecticides when trees are in bloom. You will kill your pollinators!
- *Always clean spray equipment immediately after use.