

The Fruit Rot Blues

Summer is fruit ripening season and with it comes the fruit rots. Solving these problems can sometimes be a challenge. The usual suspects are Brown Rot on peaches, plum and nectarines. Apples are often attacked by Bitter Rot and Black Rot. Getting a good crop often is accomplished with a little knowledge of what your problem is, and good timing of your sprays. First identify what fungus you're dealing with, different fungi respond to different chemicals. You can bring in samples of your disease problems to the nursery and we'll work to help you sort it out. Once you've identified the disease you'll need the right spray,



North Carolina State University has a good website that lists common chemicals organic and conventional, that home owners can find locally, it's also a good in-depth site to learn more about good spray practices. Here's a link to that http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/extension/clinic/fact_sheets/index.php?do=disease&id=7

Their PDF version on the also contains some good pictures of fruit rots that help you with identification

[file:///C:/Users/Brandy/Downloads/Disease%20and%20Insect%20Mtg%20In%20the%20Home%20Orchard%20-%20REV1012%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Brandy/Downloads/Disease%20and%20Insect%20Mtg%20In%20the%20Home%20Orchard%20-%20REV1012%20(1).pdf)

Timing is everything with most fruit rots. The majority of chemicals used to



combat rots are protectors not killers.

They coat the fruit with a hostile barrier that the rot will not grow on. Putting the spray on ahead of the rainy periods is important, as is reapplying the fruit after rain events. The fruit is also growing and expanding so you'll need to reapply to keep a good protective barrier on the fruit. It often helps to add what's called a spreader sticker to your spray mix to help keep from applying it after rain storms.

Some Good Practices to Avoid Fruit Rots.

-No over head water on your trees. Apply your water to the root system, to avoid washing your sprays off and making attracting fruit rot.

-Alternate the chemicals you use. If you use the same chemical over and over again the fungus will build resistance.

-Prune the tree for good air flow, this will help the trees dry out quickly after a rain shower and make the fruit less attractive to fruit rot.

-Spray thoroughly. These are barrier coating products. If you leave areas of the fruit unprotected the fungus will get a foothold.

-Mix fresh chemicals each time you spray. Some chemicals become ineffective within hours of setting in the sprayer.

-Don't use old chemicals. Most chemicals have a shelf life of a year when stored properly. Find a cool dry place to store your chemicals.

