

Disease, Pest Management and Fruit tree care in the Home Orchard

Introduction :

Fruit trees have been grown in home orchards for centuries. The goal of many gardeners today is to have fresh fruit from their own trees with a minimum of spraying. There are many ways to reach that goal, but we feel young fruit trees do need some annual spraying to be healthy and productive. We try to emphasize organic and least toxic methods for keeping your orchard healthy.

- 1) Choose disease resistant fruit tree varieties when possible.
- 2) Monitoring your orchard for bud and blossom stages is the key to good dormant spray timing.
- 3) Monitoring your orchard for problems is key to good pest management.
- 4) Know why you are spraying! Some sprays recommended here are proactive- trying to prevent common problems through maintenance. Beyond general maintenance (dormant) spraying, never spray without identifying the problem.
- 5) When mixing spray solutions, always mix less than you think you will need, as disposal of the leftovers is difficult. Try spraying just water on your orchard to see how much will give you good coverage
- 6) Always follow the directions on the container label. If the label is missing or unreadable, contact the company for directions (most pesticide labels are available online).
- 7) Many insect pests have natural controls in the form of beneficial insects. Avoid using broad spectrum insecticides if possible. If they are necessary, spray at dusk to limit the impact on bees and other beneficial.



Apples and Pears



Home Fruit Spray

IV. Pest Management

1) In Spring

The 1st spray helps protect the trees against powdery mildew infections and smothers eggs and crawlers of aphids, mites, leafrollers, and scale insects.

2) In Summer

Monitor foliage for aphids, leafrollers, cutworms and other insect pests. Spray if damage is apparent. Insecticidal soap or summer oil are effective on aphids. Spray is effective on caterpillars and leafrollers, and most effective sprayed late afternoon or on cloudy days.

3) Fall

Rake up and destroy fallen leaves and fruit.

4) All Year

- Prune your trees to keep them open to light and air circulation.
- Keep the orchard clean, removing diseased wood, foliage, or fruit if needed. Rake up fallen leaves in the fall, or mow them so they decay quickly.
- Keep the trees adequately watered in summer. Stressed trees are more prone to problems.
- Encourage your neighbors to keep their fruit trees healthy, too. Pests don't recognize your property boundaries!

Glossary:

Spray = Vaporisateur

Bud and Blossom= Bourgeonnement et de Floraison

Leftovers = Les restes

The container label = L'étiquette du Contenant

Spray at Dusk= Pulvérisation au crépuscule

Powdery mildew= is a fungal disease of the foliage, stems and occasionally flowers and fruit where a superficial fungal growth covers the surface of the plant.

Smothers Eggs = Etouffe Les Œufs

Crawlers of Aphids = Chenilles de pucerons

Leafrollers = les tordeuses

Scale Insects = Les cochenilles.

Cutworms = des vers-gris

Caterpillars = Chenilles

