

3+ Years Tree Maintenance Calendar

January

- Complete a soil test. Recommended to be done every 3 years.
- Clean tools, sharpen tools and prepare for the season.
- Fertilize trees with slow-release organic fertilizer (can be done between January and March)
- Water the trees if the month is dry and warm.

February

- Prune apples and pears. Prune for structure, airflow, and remove dead or diseased wood.
- Spray dormant oil on fruit trees.
- Prune peaches at the end of February (or after the risk of hard freezes has passed).

March

- Expand mulch rings on trees.
- Plant new trees and berries.
- Start spraying holistic, organic spray regimen from bud swell to the week after petal fall. (Do not spray while blossoms are open.)
- Remove tree wraps at the end of the month.

April

- Continue holistic sprays.
- Watch for signs of insect and disease issues.
- Pinch off fruits/flowers on all newly planted trees under 2 years old to encourage root and shoot growth.
- Begin weekly watering regimen, if it does not rain.

May

- On 3+ year old trees, thin fruits leaving 6"-8" between fruits for peaches, 4"-6" for apples and pears. Do not allow the fruits to touch.
- Apply Bt, Spinosad or holistic spray to protect from ornamental fruit moth and codling moth.
- Protect peach tree trunks from borers: spray neem, wrap with window screen, and plant chives or garlic near the trees' base.

June

- Harvest cherries, and early peaches like Harrow Diamond.
- Watch for and spray spotted wing drosophila in berries and soft fruit.
- Remove brown rot in stone fruits. Spray sulfur as necessary.
- Watch for fire blight on apples, pears, and Asian pears; prune out any infection 6" below cankered bark.
- Protect fruits from Japanese beetles using row cover or spray with Kaolin Clay and Neem (use a large volume trap for large turf areas).

July

- Freeze can and dehydrate peaches.
- Harvest early season apples like Pristine, and pears like Harrow Diamond and Shinsui.
- Water weekly throughout the growing season if it does not rain at least 1 inch.

August

- Prune water-sprouts and root-suckers on apples and pears. Also, prune to stunt tree growth if desired, including topping tree height.
- Harvest Asian pears: Kosui, Chojuro, Yoinashi; European pears: Sunrise, Blake's Pride, Potomac (Harvest European pears 1-2 weeks early as they do not ripen on the tree.)

September

- Harvest early figs if it has been a hot summer.
- Harvest apples: Liberty, Jonafree, Enterprise
- Harvest pears, Asian pears: Warren, Shinko, Korean Giant
- Harvest Jujubes and Pawpaws
- Watch for borer damage on peach and cherry and other stone fruit trunks, dig out borers, and spray area with Neem.
- Apply milky spore or predator nematodes for Japanese beetles.

October

- Harvest apples: Sundance.
- Harvest pears: Harrow Sweet, Kieffer
- Dehydrate apple slices, make cider and pies.

November

- Wrap new trees with tree wrap to prevent rabbits and other rodents from chewing bark.
- Mow around trees to chop leaves and remove pest habitat.
- Use falls holistic spray to help decompose leaves and kill over-wintering fruit pests.
- Aerate soil and add 1/2"-1" compost around tree dripline.
- Spray fungicide to treat peaches for leaf curl.

December

- Mulch trees with 2-3" of wood chips in 18" radius around trees.
- Case and insulate figs with 2'-4' of leaves before temperatures get below 15 degrees.
- Expand mulch rings on trees.
- Water if dry and temperatures are staying above freezing.