

Spray and Fertilizer Programs for Fruit

Spray Programs

The following guidelines are minimum recommendations for fruit producing plants. We at Hampshire Farm recommend and use Bonide's 'All Seasons' Horticultural & Dormant Spray Oil and Bonide's 'Orchard Spray' as a multipurpose mixture for natural fruit production. See the labels of the product you are using to find the recommended application rates.

Apples & Pears

- A. Dormant oil in late winter.
- B. Multipurpose mixture:
 - 1. At pink-bud stage before blossoms open
 - 2. When all petals have fallen
 - 3. 10 days after petals fall
 - 4. 20 days after petals fall
 - 5. 30 days after petals fall

Blackberries & Raspberries

- Multipurpose mixture:
- 1. When first leaves are fully expanded in spring
 - 2. When new canes reach the height of 6-8"
 - 3. Just before the flowers open

Blueberries, Currants & Gooseberries

- Multipurpose mixture:
- 1. When buds turn green 2-3 weeks before flowering
 - 2. Right after flowering
 - 3. 10 days later
 - 4. Another 10 days later

*Bordeaux mixture is a fungicide made of hydrated lime and copper sulphate that is mixed with water and sprayed on the plant.

Cherries

- A. Dormant oil in late winter.
- B. Multipurpose mixture:
 - 1. When all petals have fallen
 - 2. 10 days after petals fall
 - 3. 20 days after petals fall

Peaches

- A. Bordeaux mixture* plus Dormant oil in late winter.
- B. Multipurpose mixture:
 - 1. At pink-bud stage before blossoms open
 - 2. When all petals have fallen
 - 3. 10 days after petals fall
 - 4. 20 days after petals fall
 - 5. 30 days after petals fall

Plums

- A. Dormant oil in late winter
- B. Multipurpose mixture:
 - 1. When all petals have fallen
 - 2. 10 days after petals fall
 - 3. 20 days after petals fall
 - 4. 30 days after petals fall

Strawberries

- A. Multipurpose mixture as soon as growth begins in spring

Fertilizer Programs

Always use recommended application only; over-feeding results in excessive leafiness and reduced fruit yields. We recommend Espoma's 'Plant Tone' for an excellent natural all purpose dry fertilizer compound. And Espoma's 'Holly Tone' for acid loving plants. For liquid feeding we recommend Neptune's Harvest 'Fish & Seaweed Fertilizer' for organic applications.

Apples

Fertilize in spring with dry fertilizer around the tree on soil surface. Once established apple trees indicate need for fertilizer by pale or yellowing leaves.

Pears

Fertilize only if leaves are pale or yellow. Pear trees are also more likely to be more susceptible to disease if over-fertilized.

Blackberries, Raspberries Blueberries & Currants

Fertilize in early spring with a light dose of a dry compound intended for acid loving plants. We recommend Espoma's 'Holly Tone'.

Cherries

Fertilize in the early spring with a dry compound only if last year's leaves were pale.

Peaches

Fertilize in first of spring and six weeks later. Scatter a dry compound containing nitrate nitrogen (rather than urea), around the tree. Once established peach trees indicate need for fertilizer by pale or yellowing leaves.

Plums

Fertilize in spring with dry fertilizer around the tree on soil surface.

Rhubarb

Fertilize heavily in the fall when leaves have died back with a dry compound or compost.

Strawberries

Use a weak solution of liquid fertilizer in the spring. In late summer use a dry compound for acid loving plants, after the plants have stopped bearing fruit.