

Maintaining Fruit and Ornamental Trees

January – February

- Spray a dormant oil or lime sulfur spray. Dormant oil sprays are non-toxic, oil-based insecticides that smother any overwintered insects and prevent eggs from hatching. Lime Sulfur spray is a fungicide that kills any overwintered spores or fungi. Both products work only if the pests are covered by the oil, so be sure to spray thoroughly.

- Water. Trees still need to be watered during the long winter months. Trees can best utilize the water you give them when it is allowed to soak deep into the soil. You can use sprinklers, deep-root fork or needle, soaker hose or soft spray wand. A deep root needle is the easiest way to deep root water. If you use a deep-root fork or needle, insert no deeper than 8 inches into the soil. A good rule of thumb is 10 gallons of water for each diameter inch of the tree. For example, a two-inch diameter tree needs 20 gallons per watering.

- Prune away any dead or diseased branches.

1st of April

- Spray with Spinosad. Spinosad is an organic pesticide that's safe to use on fruits, vegetables and other edibles. It kills harmful insects on contact and at ingestion. Spinosad does not significantly impact beneficial insects, but it's best to spray one hour before dusk when bees and pollinating insects are gone.

2nd Week of April

- Repeat treatment with spinosad
- Fertilize with deep root feeder system.

May 15th

- Repeat the spinosad treatment again.

August

- Harvest fruit
- Deep root watering.

November

- **Spray Dormant Oil Spray**
- **Deep Root Watering.**