

Allans Garden Centre Prospect

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Fruit Tree Spraying and Pruning Guide

Pruning

Apples and Pears need to be pruned during Winter, wait until all leaves have dropped and then prune. The rule of thumb is to prune all new growth back to the last 3 buds on the outside of the branch. Angle the cut on a 45-60 degree slope back to the centre of the tree, this is to stop water sitting on top of the wound and to make sure the run off water runs back down the trunk into the ground near the main stem. If any cuts exceed 35mm then treat the wound to Tree Wound Dressing or Steri Prune if you haven't any then pat dry cement powder onto the wound this will dry the sap up and stop it leaking later.

Stone fruit (Nect. Cherries, Peaches etc) need to be pruned heavily after the fruit has been harvested, this will ensure the tree doesn't get growth spurts during late summer and also helps sap loss. Always prune your Apples and Pears before spraying as you reduce the total area of spray needed.

Spraying

1st Spray

White Oil is recommended to spray on all deciduous fruit trees, berry's and citrus during Winter, give all a thorough drenching on all limbs and trunk as soon as the trees have lost all their leaves, in the case of Citrus spray all leaves and trunk to prevent or clean up sooty black mould and scale.

If it rains heavily soon after spraying then spray again with the white oil. You have up until the buds start opening to use this.

2nd Spray

Copper based sprays are the next one to go onto all stone fruits, strawberries, and I'd recommend Citrus as well. This is best applied at bud swell, usually the 2nd week in August, watch daily from the end of July the buds on the trees to determine when to spray, if it's a warmer spring then spraying maybe required earlier or later if it's a colder start. Yates Fungus Fighter is a good Copper Spray to use, it is a finer powder blend which tends to not block the spray nozzles up as much. Coat this on twice if you can, heavy morning dews and misty rain will reduce the potency of the copper on the trees.

3rd Spray

Mancozeb Plus is a fungicide that is useful on all stone fruit to help prevent brown rot in Apricots, Peaches and Nectarines, this needs to be applied well after the fruit have set and are filling, if rain occurs during ripening it is highly important to spray soon after to help the fruit fight against fungal spores and disease.

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4th Spray

Codling moth larvae can ruin apples and pears in late Spring, spray Yates Success on the whole tree every fortnight to ensure clean fruit, this is a safe spray to use on all grubs, leaf chewers and beetles. Also hang a Codling Moth pheromone trap in your tree, this will trap the male moth and reduce the numbers of larvae. 1 trap will be sufficient for up to 5 trees