



UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA

Agriculture & Natural Resources

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION • YOLO COUNTY

70 Cottonwood Street, Woodland, CA 95695 Tel. (530) 666-8143 Fax (530) 666-8736

DORMANT SPRAYING OF FRUIT TREES IN THE GARDEN

What is dormant spray? Dormant sprays are highly refined oils and fungicides applied when trees are in dormancy, after leaves fall but before buds begin to break open in the spring.

Why use dormant spray? Dormant sprays provide efficient and economical treatment for a number of diseases and over-wintering pests, such as:

- shot hole fungus on almonds, apricots, nectarines and peaches
- peach leaf curl fungus on nectarines and peaches
- brown rot fungus on almonds and all stone fruits
- peach twig borer, over-wintering mites, aphid eggs and scale insects

When to use dormant sprays? Once all leaves have fallen in late NOVEMBER until just before the buds begin to open in FEBRUARY or early MARCH. Space 2 or 3 sprays during this period. Use 3 if there is heavy rainfall.

How to use dormant sprays?

- Pump sprayers or compressed air sprayers can be used for application
- Trees should be well watered prior to spraying to prevent burning
- Avoid spraying if rain or cold north winds are expected
- Always follow product direction

What to use? Dormant Oil spray- for mites, aphid eggs, scale and peach tree borer. *Careful on prunes and plums; may burn foliage if applied late.*

- 50% fixed copper--for peach leaf curl, brown rot, shot hole
- Bordeaux--for peach leaf curl, brown rot, shot hole
- Lime sulfur--for peach leaf curl, brown rot, shot hole
Not for apricots, sulfur products cause phytotoxicity.

Help prevent disease and pests and reduce the need for sprays by maintaining good sanitation. Rake and dispose of all leaves after drop and before the first rains if possible. Remove any fruit left and prune out branches with diseased twigs. Sprays are necessary annually on peaches and nectarines for peach leaf curl. All other pests and diseases may or may not require treatment.

By Treva Valentine. All contents copyright © 2001. The Regents of the University of California All rights reserved

The University of California prohibits discrimination against or harassment of any person employed by or seeking employment with the University on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or status as a covered veteran (covered veterans are special disabled veterans, recently separated veterans, Vietnam era veterans, or any other veterans who served on active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized). University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws. Inquires regarding the University's equal employment opportunity policies may be directed to the Affirmative Action/Staff Personnel Services Director, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 300 Lakeside Drive, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612-3550, (510) 987-0096.



University of California and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating