



HOME & GARDEN

Home and Garden information center • 12005 Homewood Road • Ellicott City, MD 21042 • 1-800-342-2507

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Fruit Tips

- Now is a good time to select and order fruit plants from reputable mail order companies. Select recommended, disease resistant varieties when possible and be sure you indicate a desired shipping date. For apple trees, be sure you know the exact rootstock you are ordering. For help with selecting fruit varieties refer to our fact sheets: HG 68 "Getting Started with Small Fruits" and HG 69 "Getting Started with Tree Fruits".
- Dormant oil sprays are very effective at reducing populations of some tree fruit pests such as aphids, mites and scale insects. If you've had problems with these pests, spray trees thoroughly with a dormant oil spray before bud break, making sure that temperatures are expected to remain above 40 degrees F. for the 24 hour period after spraying. It is only necessary to spray dormant oil one time. Do not spray dormant oil within 10 days of using a sulfur-containing spray.
- Liquid lime sulfur is a safe and inexpensive material that can be sprayed on raspberry, blackberry, and blueberry plants prior to bud swell to prevent cane diseases. It should also be applied to peach trees when buds begin to swell but before green tissue is visible to help prevent peach leaf curl disease. Apply to plum trees at bud swell to prevent plum pockets disease. Never spray dormant oil within 10 days of using a sulfur-containing spray.
- Fireblight damage on apples and pears should be pruned out now. This will lessen the chance of spreading this bacterial infection in the spring. Bordeaux mix, a copper fungicide/bactericide can be applied to apple and pear trees prior to bud swell to reduce the incidence of firelight.
- Prune out the dead raspberry and blackberry canes that fruited last year. Fall fruiting raspberries like 'Heritage' can be cut down to the ground now. Prune small fruits and tree fruits when weather permits, but wait until March or bud break to prune peach and cherries.
- For more information on brambles and their care refer to the publications available on this website.

Have a pest or gardening question?
Call The Home and Garden Information Center
1-800-342-2507
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