Home Orchard Calenda

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Januar	У	Febru	ary		March	
Week 1	Visit your Penn State County Extension Service Office to obtain literature on fruit growing in the home landscape: http://extension.psu.edu/counties	Week 1			trees because fainjury and canker infections.	ne best time to prune peach, nectarine, and apricot all and early winter pruning may expose trees to winter. The delay permits the grower to adjust the severity of affruit buds that survived the winter. Strive to develop a cer tree.
Week 2		Week 2			freezing.) In backyard planti cultivated to prevent compe	ees as soon as the ground can be worked and as soon as arrival from the nursery. (Protect roots from drying out or ings, the sod beneath trees should be turned under and etition for moisture and nutrients. Thoroughly water trees, round has settled around the roots.)
Week 3		Week 3	Prune cherry and plum trees. The sou spreading and can be pruned to a bowl share best pruned like apple trees. Plum thabit, but are often pruned to the bowl sl	nape. Sweet cherry trees crees vary in their growth	Week 3  Dormant Sprastone fruit ( fruit bud swei	(prior to before applying plant pest
Week 4		Week 4	,		Week 4  Dormant Spray on pears.	FERTILIZER RATES lbs of 5-10-10 (1 lb = $2^{1}/_{2}$ cups) Apples (1-4 yrs old): 1/2 lb per tree per year of tree age Apples (over 4 yrs): Omit fertilizer unless prescribed by leaf or soil analysis (or terminal shoot growth is less than 15
Tie dwarf tree may girdle tree	Begin pruning apple and pear trees. Remember to maintain a pyramid shaped tree, wide and strong at the bottom and gradually tapered at the top. s to a support stake or trellis. (Caution: Avoid using tying materials that es. Tie loosely to allow room for growth.) For disease and insect control, d wood. Also dispose of prunings.	Week 5			Week 5 Apply fertilizers just before bloom to maximize plant uptake (and minimize leaching)	organic fertilizer.
A pril		May			June	
Week 1	Begin season-long pest control program on peaches, plums, and cherries. Spray every 10 days (except during bloom and close to harvest).*	Week 1	trunks of newly-planted trees. These also will keep you from	Break off and discard fire blight infested pear terminals whenever	Week 1	Set out Japanese beetle traps (at least 25 ft from fruit trees) when first beetles appear.
Week 2 Green Tip Sp on apples.	Begin season-long pest control program on apples and pears.  Spray every 10 days (except during bloom) until June.  Then spray every 2 weeks (except close to harvest).*	Week 2		they are found.	vveek 2 removed when between plums. I trees are more lik apples from the s	trees. Excess fruits on peach and plum trees should be about 3/4" in diameter. Leave 6" between peaches and 3" If apple trees are thinned no later than 50 days after full bloom, kely to have a return crop. Use thumb and forefinger to snap tem, leaving stem on tree. Thin to 6-8" apart. With experience, balance crop load to tree growth.
Week 3	Broadcast 1/2 lb of 5-10-10 (or equivalent amount of organic fertilizer or another complete fertilizer) in a ring around each newly-planted tree. Keep fertilizer away from base of tree.	Week 3	Attend a backyard orcharding cou learn to eliminate some sprays by mor pests and weather.		Week 3 Remove and discard leaves with insect egg masses whenever they are found.	Spread scaffold limbs which have been selected to be the main framework of central leader trained trees. The first year, clothespins may be clasped above tender shoots to force branches to grow horizontally. In subsequent years, wide crotch angles are developed by using wooden spreaders or tying limbs down.
Week 4		Week 4	Discourage deer from eating young shoots by using commercially available repellents, or by tying bars of soap in the trees. Purchase and/or make ready Japanese beetle attractant traps.		lesser pe	peach trees for signs of each tree borer, and apply if needed.
Week 5	Measures to control weeds should begin early in the season. Maintain a weed-free area 4 ft from the trunk of young trees. Plant grass outside this weed-free area but keep closely mowed.	Week 5			roots	ivate around trees, being careful not to disturb the s. Irrigate young trees during dry periods. (Trees should ve equivalent of I" of rainfall per week.) (If you decide to n, select a material that will not provide habit



Contact the extension educator in your county for more information: http://extension.psu.edu/counties

A Penn State guide to home fruit production, including where to purchase plants is available at <a href="http://agsci.psu.edu/fphq">http://agsci.psu.edu/fphq</a>.

<sup>\*</sup> Home orchardists often choose to use organic sprays or home orchard sprays (general purpose mixtures). If you select an organic program, plant disease-resistance fruit varieties. There are many pests that attack fruit trees, and some insect and disease damage will still occur. Schedules are based on Mid-Atlantic conditions. Adjust dates for other regions. Follow label directions.



## Home Orchard Calendar

July	A ugust	September	
Week 1 Flavor and overall color are the best guides for determining when to pick cherries. To prevent sharing your crop with birds, use exclusion or repulsion control techniques.	Week 1	Week 1 Unlike other deciduous fruits, pears attain highest quality when they are picked in a slightly green stage.	
Week 2	Week 2 Just prior to maturity, the flattened sides of a <b>peach</b> swell. Begin harvesting peaches when the ground (background) color begins to change to yellow (yellow-fleshed peaches) or white (white-fleshed peaches). It is necessary to "spot pick" a peach tree 2 or 3 times to get the desired degree of ripeness. Peach trees being to bear fruit about 3 years after planting.	Week 2 Begin harvesting fall apple varieties. To pick an apple, grasp it in the pa of your hand with your thumb over the stem end. Then lift to one side upward, giving the fruit a slight turn. Be careful not to break off spurs the will bear the following year's fruit. Dwarf trees begin to bear fruit 2-4 years after planting. Semi-dwarf trees bear fruit 4-6 years after planting.	
Week 3  If you have a large apricot crop to harvest, consider yourself fortunate. Since blossoms open up early, they are likely to be killed by spring frost.	Week 3  Continue to subdue weed growth, and keep grass closely mowed.	Week 3 Discourage deer from browsing and rubbing antlers against bark of trees, e.g., by using repellents.  For collecting overwintering codling moth larvae, corrugcardboard bands may be wrapped around apple trunt	
Week 4 Color changes during ripening are especially noticeable on plums. For canning, pick plums when they are well-colored and firm-ripe. For jams pick fruit when fully ripe. A mature plum tree may yield 1-1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> bushels.	Week 4  Many summer apple varieties should be "spot picked," like peaches, to attain the proper level of maturity.	Week 4  Remove fruits as they fall to ground. Remove and dispose of decaying hanging fruit.	
Week 5  Leaf analysis is the most reliable indicator of fruit tree nutritional needs. Mid-July to mid-August is the recommended time for sampling leaves of fruit trees for tissue analysis. Contact your County Extension Educator for details.	Week 5	Week 5  Take soil samples. Soil sampling kits are available at your local County Extension Service office.	
October	November	December	
Week 1 All fruits should be handled carefully to avoid bruising or puncturing. Mechanical injuries shorten the life of fruit and contribute to low quality. Storage in cool, moist areas helps extend the shelf life of fruit.	Week 1 Apply lime in accordance with soil test recommendations. For best results, incorporate lime with the soil.	Week 1 Remove and burn corrugated cardboard trunk bands.	
Week 2	Week 2  Remove apple root suckers.	Week 2  Order nursery stock well in advance of the planting date. Buy only from reputable nurseries that guarantee their stock.	
Week 3 Check the ground around fruit trees for mouse activity. Be alert for mouse runs, breather holes, and tooth marks on fallen fruit. Normally, mice are not a problem in backyard fruit plantings where the grass is closely mowed and the ground around the tree is cultivated.	Week 3 Fall planting should be conducted about a month after the first killing frost. Do not expose roots of nursery trees to freezing or drying conditions. (Do not prune or fertilize until April.)	Week 3	
For more information on If the potential for mouse damage exists, consult your County Extension Service for current recommendations and precautions regarding mouse controls.	Week 4	Week 4 Update the record book you keep on your fruit trees. Make sure you have recorded varieties, rootstocks, planting dates, lime and fertilizer applications, pesticides, and what's most important—yields.	
	Week 5	Week 5	

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