

Dormant Spraying

Dormant spraying is the application of insecticides (for bugs) and fungicides (for diseases) to a tree or shrub when it is leafless, or dormant. Dormant sprays are used on deciduous trees and shrubs which are especially pest prone, including all fruit trees (and their ornamental relatives like flowering cherries, plums, and crabapples).

FRUIT TREES: Traditional orchardists strive to spray their trees two or three times each year. The first spray is done in late fall, the second in early January while trees are fully dormant, and the third and most important spray is done in early spring, just before or just as buds are beginning to open along the stems. This is also known as delayed dormant spraying. If you choose to spray only once, this is the time to do it. If you have a specific problem, such as apple scab or peach leaf curl, repeat spraying at this time can help control the disease. If you haven't noticed any bugs or diseases on your fruit trees, it isn't necessary to spray, but can be an excellent preventative measure along with good sanitation.

TYPES OF SPRAYS: **DORMANT OILS** are used to control insect problems such as aphids, thrips, mealy bugs, pear slugs, scale and spider mites. The oil smothers the bugs during the dormant season. Dormant oils often have a diluted solution rate for spraying during the growing season to control the insects during their crawling stage. Using a *spreader-sticker*, i.e. **Bonide Turbo Spreader Sticker**, helps the oils stick to the plant better and enhances the products performance.

ALL PRODUCTS ARE APPLIED DIFFERENTLY, SO **READ LABELS THOROUGHLY.**

Bonide All-Season Oil is non-toxic and will smother over wintering insect eggs. It can be used on most all plants except Spruce and other conifers. Read the product details before using. Timing is everything.

Bonide Fung-onil can be used on peach, nectarine, apricot, cherry and plum to control brown rot, blossom blight, cherry leaf spot and peach leaf curl. It can also be used to control anthracnose and mummyberry on blueberries.

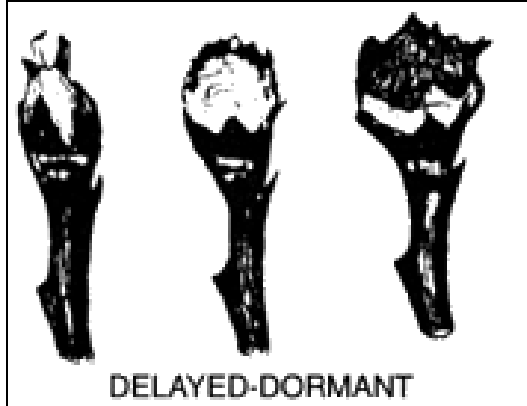
Fertilome Fruit Tree Spray can be used to control most fungal diseases (including apple/pear scab) and insects that damage fruit trees and their fruit.

Bonide Fruit Tree Spray & Plant Guard can be used on apples and pears to control apple scab. It also acts to control insects as well as many other diseases.

SANITATION: It does little good to keep on spraying if the source of the infection and infestation are still present. It's very important to rake and destroy fallen leaves and fruit in the fall. Otherwise they may harbor insects and diseases that will attack your plants the following year. This includes prompt removal of dead, diseased, and insect laden limbs and branches.

ON THE BACK of this handout is a series of pictures showing the growth stages of a plant breaking dormancy. Spraying at each of the pictured stages in the spring is a common program to control apple and pear scab and peach leaf curl. You cannot control apple maggots with the above sprays (see our apple maggot handout).





DELAYED DORMANT

Buds along stems and branches are beginning to swell or show their first green tissue, but leaves have yet to emerge.



PREPINK

First leaves are visible but have not yet fully emerged from the buds. Tight clusters of flower buds are just beginning to show.



PINK

Flower buds and leaves have fully emerged but flowers are not yet open. DO NOT spray when flowers are open, or your plants will not be pollinated and bear fruit.



CALYX or PETAL FALL

Flower petals have dropped from the tree and the bloom cycle is finished.