

Fruit Tree Care Calendar

December/January

- Prepare, Plan, Learn (Of course, that's all the time!)
- Control Gypsy Moth and Forest Tent Caterpillar egg masses, or scout for them, at least

February/March

- Collect scion-wood for grafting, store appropriately
- Prune

April

- Early-season care of insects and diseases (lime sulfur, dormant oil)
- Grafting/Chip-budding
- Renew mulches; Fertilize as appropriate late in month
- Complete branch training procedures

May

- NO insecticidal use during bloom (at least if you want fruit!)
- Scab control
- Fruit thinning 14 to 21 days after petal fall; Conduct fruit bagging if part of your plan
- Planting of new trees
- Codling moth and curculio treatments, if deemed necessary

June

- Pest scouting & Management
 - rose chafers, gypsy moth & tent caterpillars
 - Scab
 - aphids on young trees
- EARLY (double-check fruit-thinning, especially on young trees)
- Damage management
- Animal management
- Water need management

July

- Water needs
- Mid-month, pruning of trees that don't like being spring pruned (too many water sprouts)
- Late in month, apple maggot scouting and control; Aphids on young trees; Japanese beetles

August

- Apple maggot control
- T-budding
- Watch early apples for maturity and correct harvest timing

September/October/November

- Harvest appropriately for the cultivar & year (remember to watch water availability)
- Clean up debris (head-start on next year's disease management)
- Check for physical damage and mark or prune right away
- Wrap trees to prevent meadow vole and winter heat damage - if they're not wire-meshed.

Questions, contact Scott Reuss at 715-732-7510 or e-mail to scott.reuss@wisc.edu