

Garden Spraying

The first Dormant spraying may want to be done in late October in order to help protect the plant when the rains arrive. This will coat the branches from fungal spores. Dormant spraying should be done normally from mid-January to mid-March.

When you are spraying, 3 items to remember:

1. Wear long sleeves and eye protection.
2. Always read the label.
3. Avoid windy days especially below freezing.

Dormant sprays are divided into three categories:

Lime-sulphur is natural fungicide also known as calcium polysulphide. It will kill any overwintering fungus that causes disease. Spray for apples once or twice from January through March. Apply weekly for cherries during blossoming for brown rot. It is effective against powdery mildew, apple scab, shot hole fungus, rust, leaf spot, peach leaf curl, fire blight or black spot. However, this spray is quite toxic to apricots. Because of its odor it will repel rabbits and deer. Warning: These sprays can cause staining of sidewalks and other hard surfaces. It can be irritating to skin and eyes.

Dormant oils are non-toxic insecticides that are safe for use on dormant fruit trees. They are petroleum distillates that will smother eggs of leaf-rollers, white flies, mites, scale, and pear psylla. These oils will also kill any insects on the plant when you spray and it can make lime-sulphur fungicides adhere to branches and leaves more effectively. Warning: These sprays can cause staining of sidewalks and other hard surfaces.

Copper sulphate can be irritating to eyes and skin. This is also known as Fixed Copper. This is a powder that is mixed with water. It can be sprayed in March before peach, pear, cherry, apple or plum buds open. This spray can control canker and with the addition of a spreader-sticker product will stick to tree branches. Wait two weeks before application of any sulphur spray.

Repelling deer can be accomplished with a mixture of two tablespoons of Tabasco, one tablespoon of liquid soap, and about a gallon of water.