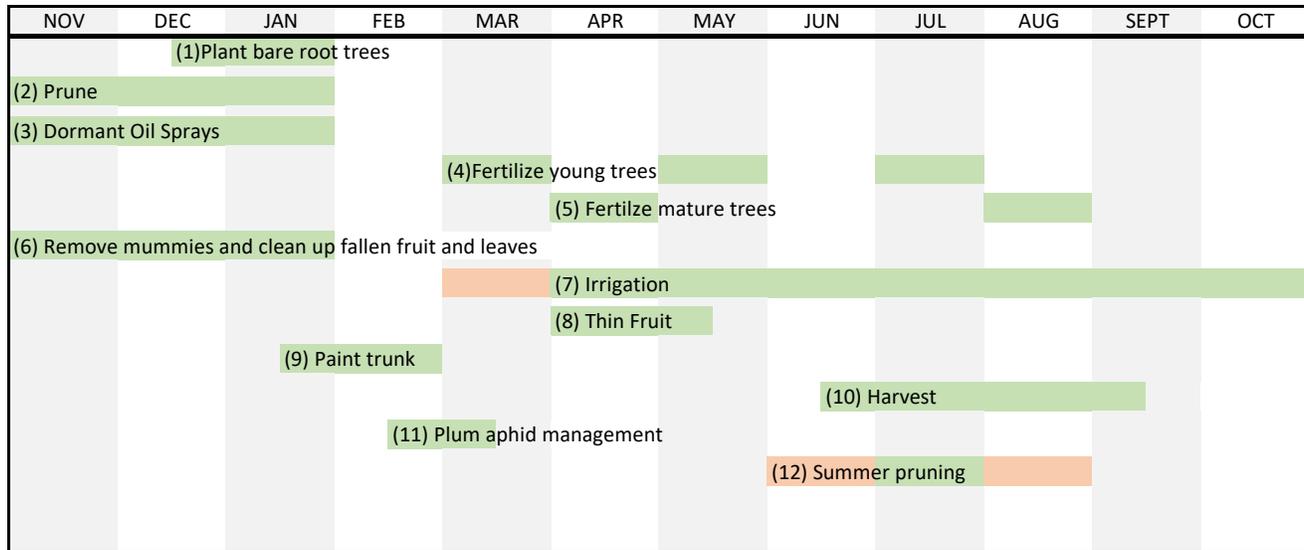


## CULTURAL CARE FOR PLUMS (includes Cherry Plum, Pluot and Prune)



**PLEASE NOTE:** Timing of these activities may vary in your climate zone. Pest management timing may require more specific timing. Also depending on your location the pest may not be a problem.

Indicates activity primary period

Indicates activity secondary period

- 1 Plant dormant bare root trees: Place trees in areas that have good soil texture and good drainage. Use raised beds or mounds when soils are heavy or compacted
- 2 Dormant pruning: Thin out 20% of last years growth to allow light into center of the tree. Remove dead, diseased or broken branches.
- 3 Dormant sprays: To control scale, mites and aphids spray with dormant oil late in dormant season just prior to bud break.
- 4 Fertilize with nitrogen fertilizers March, May, June total of 3 times. Water immediately to avoid nitrogen loss.
- 5 Fertilize mature trees if necessary: Feed 1/2 of the total amount of fertilizer in spring and 2nd half just after harvest. Use lower rates or no fertilizer at all for vigorous trees.
- 6 Remove mummies, fruit and leaves: Remove and destroy. Picking up fallen and hanging fruit reduces pests.
- 7 Irrigation: Provide enough water at drip line to wet the soil 18-24 inches. Depending on soil type, water every one to three weeks during the summer.
- 8 Thin fruit: When fruit reaches 1/2 to 3/4 inch in diameter, thin 1 fruit per 6 inches.
- 9 Paint trunk: In hot regions paint trunk and lower branches that are exposed to the hot afternoon sun. Paint with 1:1 ratio of white latex paint and water to reduce sunburn and borer infestations. Apply paint 2 inches below soil line to 2 feet above.
- 10 Harvest: Harvest when fruit is firm ripe. Early varieties may need to be harvested over a period of weeks, while fruit of later varieties are usually harvested all at once. Clean up fallen fruit immediately to minimize pest problems. Store fully ripe fruit under refrigeration or dehydrate, can or freeze.
- 11 Plum aphid management: These insects often cause curling of the young leaves in spring, but will only require control when 50% of the leaves are curled and live aphids are present.
- 12 Summer pruning: Remove the strong, vigorous shoots from the interior portion of the canopy to improve light and circulation.

[SOURCE for the above care calendar: UC ANR Publication 3485 The Home Orchard](#)

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCE LINKS

[PLUMS AND PRUNES- UC IPM Cultural tips, pests and disorders](#)

[PLUMS AND PRUNES - The UC California Backyard Orchard](#)

