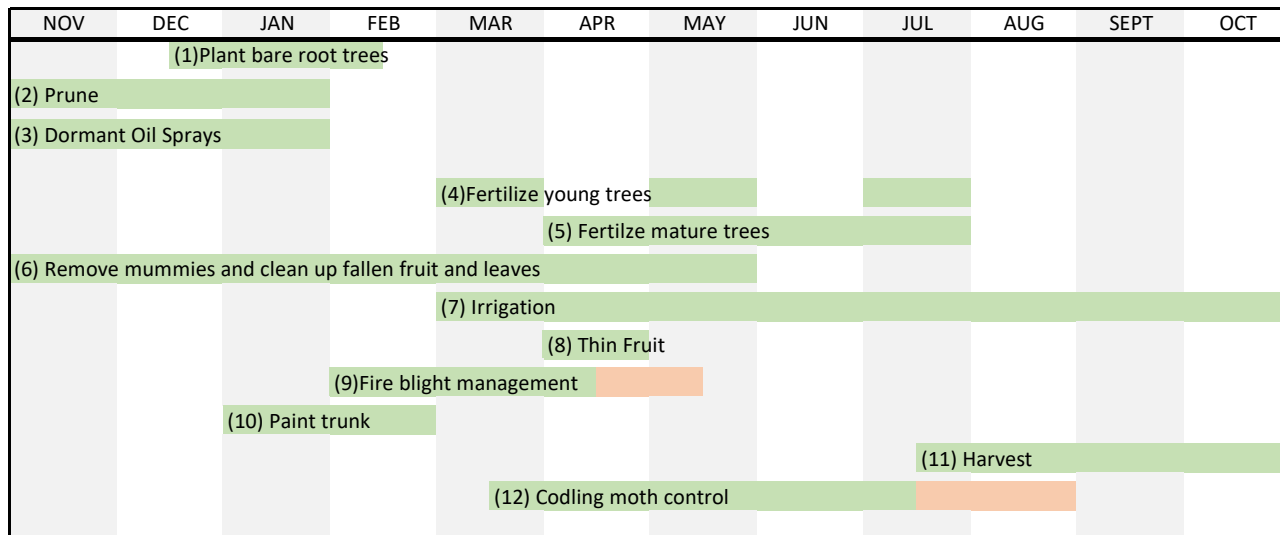


CULTURAL CARE FOR POME FRUITS

Apple, Pear, Quince



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.
- 2 Dormant pruning: Thin out 15-20% of last years growth to allow light into center of the tree. Remove broken crossed or diseased limbs, including water sprouts and root suckers.
- 3 Dormant sprays: To control scale, mites and aphids spray with dormant oil in dormant season before 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. Avoid excessive nitrogen application for best fruit quality.
- 6 Remove mummies, fallen fruit and leaves: Remove and destroy. Picking up fallen fruit reduces codling moth and picking up fallen leaves reduces scab infections the following spring.
- 7 Irrigation: Provide enough water at drip line to wet the soil 24-36 inches. Depending on soil type, water every one to three weeks during the summer.
- 8 Thin fruit: When fruit reaches 3/4 inch in diameter, thin 1 fruit per 6 inches of shoot growth or 1 fruit per cluster. Pears usually are not thinned unless fruit set is heavy. Asian pears should be thinned 30-60 days after bloom to increase fruit size. The fruit should be 5-7 inches apart on the branch. Quince typically do not need to be thinned.
- 9 Fire blight: Prune out affected shoots, make pruning cuts into healthy wood at least 12 inches below the dead portion of the branch. Remove and destroy all diseased wood. Spray application of fixed copper every 5-7 days during the bloom period may help to control the disease, however it may cause russetting of the fruit.
- 10 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.
- 11 Harvest: Harvest when fruit is fully mature and full color. European pears when green and hard, store in refrigerator before ripening. Then allow to soften at room temperature. Asian pears are allowed to ripen on the tree. Quince should be harvested when fruit turn from green to yellow. Leave them on tree as long as possible for best flavor but before frost. Clip fruit from tree to avoid damaging the fruit.
- 12 Colding moth: Start control in spring at petal fall and may be required all season. To avoid spraying, a reliable method is to cut a small hole in the bottom of a brown paper lunch bag and slip the hole over the small developing fruit. Staple the mouth of the bag shut to exclude adult moths.

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

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE LINKS

[APPLES - The UC California Backyard Orchard](#)

[APPLES - UC IPM Cultural Care Tips, Pests and Disorders](#)

[PEARS - The UC California Backyard Orchard](#)

[PEARS - UC IPM Cultural Care Tips, Pests and Disorders](#)

[QUINCE - The California Backyard Orchard](#)

