

Pest management schedule for backyard cherry trees in Eastern Oregon

The table below outlines a suggested management schedule for the most common insect pests and diseases of cherry trees in Eastern Oregon. Product availability may vary by location. Always read and follow pesticide label instructions. For more detailed information on home fruit tree care, reference the OSU Extension publication [Managing diseases and insects in home orchards](#) (EC 631) or contact your local Oregon State University Extension office.

Growth Stage	Timing	Target	Standard	Organic	Notes
Dormant	January – March	pruning	Proper pruning will open up the tree canopy and maintain quality fruit production. Burn or dispose of visibly infected branches. Copper may be applied if cankers are found and have been pruned out. Post-harvest pruning in late summer can reduce risk of disease.		
Delayed dormant	Late winter (February – March)	aphids, mites, scale, leafrollers	horticultural oil (e.g., Monterey Horticultural Oil, Bonide All Seasons Horticultural Oil)		This is an important stage for insect pest control. This spray is highly recommended.
Pre-bloom	As flower buds begin to show color prior to blooming	fungal disease (e.g., brown rot, leaf spot, shothole)	captan, chlorothalonil (e.g., Bonide Fung-onil), myclobutanil (e.g., Spectracide IMMUNOX Multi-Purpose Fungicide), propiconazole (e.g., Bonide Infuse Systemic)	copper (e.g., Bonide Copper Fungicide, Monterey Liquid Copper Fungicide)	Allow two weeks between copper and sulfur sprays.
		aphids, mites, scale, leafrollers	carbaryl, esfenvalerate, malathion	horticultural oil, insecticidal soap (Safer Brand), pyrethrins ^a (e.g., PyGanic Gardening), spinosad (e.g., Bonide Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew), sulfur (Safer Brand Fungicide)	Allow two weeks between copper and sulfur sprays. Allow two weeks between sulfur and horticultural oil sprays.
Bloom	Avoid insecticide use during bloom. Otherwise, apply early morning or late afternoon and use pesticides with low pollinator toxicity.				
Petal fall through late spring	Petal fall through shucksplit ^b	powdery mildew	myclobutanil, propiconazole	horticultural oil, neem oil (e.g., AzaMax),	

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Trade-name products are mentioned as illustrations only. The Oregon State University Extension Service neither endorses these products nor intends to discriminate against products and services not mentioned.



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Growth Stage	Timing	Target	Standard	Organic	Notes
Petal fall through late spring	Petal fall through shucksplit ^b	mites, aphids	carbaryl, esfenvalerate, malathion	insecticidal soap, pyrethrins ^a , sulfur	
		cherry leaf spot, brown rot, shothole	captan, chlorothanil, myclobutanil, propiconazole	sulfur	Use if there is a history of disease. Shucksplit spray recommended for wet springs.
Late spring through summer	May or when fruit turns from light green to yellow green	Western cherry fruit fly ^c , spotted wing drosophila	acetamiprid, carbaryl, esfenvalerate, malathion, zeta-cypermethrin	pyrethrins ^a , spinosad	Repeat applications at 7 to 14-day intervals, or as indicated on label. These are major pests of cherry; do not skip these sprays.
		powdery mildew, hatching insects	acetamiprid, carbaryl, esfenvalerate, gamma-cyhalothrin, lambda-cyhalothrin, malathion	horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, pyrethrins ^a	
	when pest is present	aphids	esfenvalerate, malathion, permethrin	neem oil, <i>Beauveria bassiana</i> , insecticidal soap, pyrethrins ^a	Insecticidal soap will also control mites.
Harvest and postharvest	July – November	unharvested fruit	Any fallen or unharvested fruit should be removed and destroyed or properly disposed of. Any ripe fruit allowed to hang on tree must be treated for cherry fruit fly as outlined above.		
	After leaf fall but before fall rains begin	bacterial and fungal disease	remove and dispose of fallen leaves, copper		Remove and destroy infected branches before fall rains. Apply copper when leaves fall. This spray is highly recommended.

^a Some formulations of these products may be approved for organic use.

^b Shucksplit is when small fruit shed their papery sheath shortly after bloom.

^c Control of this pest is mandated for cherry producing counties in Oregon. Insect trapping can be used to time cherry fruit fly sprays. Contact your local Extension office for more information.

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