



The following Task List has been compiled as a reference and starting point that applies broadly to orchards and the plants included in POP orchards. Specific timing and relevant plants will change according to each site and growing season. We've included spaces for notes and a place to check tasks off as they are completed - as applicable to your site.

Please feel free to provide feedback on this form and to also send us a scan or picture at the end of the year, so we can continue to improve it!

Your Name: _____ Email or phone: _____

Name of Orchard: _____ Year: _____

Month	Task	Date(s)	Notes
January	Prune Fruit Trees (starting with pome fruits and ending with stone fruits) <i>(all winter pruning can be completed anytime between January and early March)</i> Establish and renew permanent scaffold branches Open fruit trees to air and sunlight Remove dead, damaged, and diseased wood Remove crossing, competing, and crowding branches Remove most vertical growth and retain horizontal fruiting branches Follow tool sanitation guidelines and dispose of diseased prunings <i>See POP Pruning Guide for more info</i>		
	Remove mummified fruit Fruit left hanging on the tree is a source for disease spores. Pluck and remove any mummified fruit during pruning Trash, burn or use in hot compost system		
	Prune Woody Berry Bushes (blueberries, currants, gooseberries, elderberries, etc) Remove dead, damaged, and diseased wood Remove approximately 25% of growth by cutting oldest branches to just above the ground Remove additional growth if overly crowded <i>See POP Pruning Guide for more info</i>		
	Prune Brambles (raspberries, blackberries, etc) Remove dead, damaged, and diseased wood Remove all 2nd year canes by cutting to ground Remove smaller first year canes if overly crowded Shorten first year canes (and side laterals on blackberries) <i>See POP Pruning Guide for more info</i>		
	Prune Fruiting Vines (grapes, hardy kiwis, etc) Remove dead, damaged, and diseased wood Remove up to 90% of woody growth, leaving some younger canes and buds to fruit Remove any growth that wraps around itself or other other object <i>See POP Pruning Guide for more info</i>		
	Orchard tool maintenance Clean, sharpen, and repair		

Sources:
<https://extension.psu.edu/home-orchard-calendar>
 "The Holistic Orchard" Michael Phillips

POP Resources:
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PHILADELPHIA ORCHARD PROJECT

Monthly Orchard Task List: Feb/March

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Name of Orchard: _____ Year: _____

Month	Tasks	Date(s)	Notes
February	Continue winter pruning of fruit trees, berry bushes, brambles, and vines <i>(winter pruning can be completed anytime between January and early March)</i> See detailed descriptions in January task list See POP Pruning Guide for more info		
	Remove mummified fruit To reduce spread of disease, remove any mummified fruit during pruning		
	Dormant Oil Spray For control of aphids, scale, and other overwintering insects Read and follow labels carefully (4% dilution)		
	Remove Spotted Lanternfly Egg Masses Scrape off of trunks, branches, surrounding surfaces		
	Order orchard care supplies Tools, gloves, sprays & other pest management supplies, harvest equipment		
March	Finish winter pruning of fruit trees, berry bushes, brambles, and vines <i>(winter pruning can be completed anytime between January and early March)</i> See detailed descriptions in January list above See POP Pruning Guide for more info		
	Safe to plant new orchard plants as soon as soil thaws		
	Cut back dead herbaceous material Disperse or compost seed heads and stalks if desired		
	Begin monitoring for bud swell		
	Pest and disease management (as needed) Apply dormant oil spray before bud break for aphids, scale, etc (see Feb above) Good timing to run chickens or ducks through orchard for pest control Cultivate soil under fruit trees to kill overwintering larvae Remove spotted lanternfly egg masses		
	Sulfur/Copper Spray (as needed) Apply prior to bud swell for control of diseases including brown rot, fireblight, scab, peach leaf curl, etc Use only as last resort in case of severe crop losses or plant damage! Wear protective clothing and eyewear and follow safety instructions		
	Apply compost, fertilizer, or compost tea to feed root system Just before bloom Read and follow labels carefully		

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Name of Orchard: _____ Year: _____

Month	Tasks	Date(s)	Notes
April	Unwrap figs and pomegranates Figs that were wrapped in Fall can now be uncovered		
	Thorough Spring weeding and mulch Reduce weed pressure over time via thorough weeding of undesired volunteer plants Apply thick layer of wood chips to reduce weed pressure and feed the forest floor Be sure not to build up mulch around tree bases Consider sheet mulching with a base layer of cardboard for added weed control		
	Plant new trees, shrubs, vines, and herbaceous companion plants Water new plants twice per week for the first month		
	Holistic Orchard Sprays for general plant health and resilience Compost tea, neem oil, and/or herbal sprays Often applied every 2 weeks or at 1/4" green, pink, and petal fall stages		
	Pest and Disease Monitoring (weekly walk though)		
	Begin pest and disease control on Stone Fruit (as needed) Copper/Sulfur fungicides for severe bacterial & fungal issues BT and Spinosad for rampant moth and larva infestations Kaolin clay for curculio and some moths Do not spray in heat of day, during bloom or close to harvest Read and follow labels carefully Only spray in response to specific issue Hang pheromone and sticky traps timed to specific pest egg hatch		
	Begin pest and disease control on Pome Fruit (as needed) Copper/Sulfur fungicides for severe bacterial & fungal issues BT and Spinosad for rampant moth and larva infestations Kaolin clay for curculio and some moths Do not spray in heat of day, during bloom or close to harvest Read and follow labels carefully Only spray in response to specific issue Hang pheromone and sticky traps timed to specific pest egg hatch		
	Install sticky bands on trunks for Spotted Lanternfly control		
	Hang pheremone traps if monitoring moth populations Oriental fruit moth, codling moth, etc		

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PHILADELPHIA ORCHARD PROJECT

Monthly Orchard Task List: May/June

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Name of Orchard: _____ Year: _____

Month	Tasks	Date(s)	Notes
May	Prune Figs after new growth starts Cut out winter die back after new growth initiates Prune for shape and light penetration as desired		
	Continue weeding and mulching Reduce weed pressure over time via thorough weeding Subsequently apply a thick layer of wood chips to disturbed areas		
	Water Spring planted trees, shrubs and perennials once per week first year		
	Pest and Disease Monitoring & Management (as needed) Continue Kaolin clay when needed for plum curculio and codling moth Prune out and dispose of flagging tips on peach and stone fruits from oriental fruit moth Remove leaves infected with Peach Leaf Curl Potential application of holistic and organic sprays as needed for specific pest and disease challenges		
	Prune signs of Fire Blight out of Apple, Pear, Asian Pear & Quince To prevent further spread, prune at least 12" below signs and further if discoloration noted in cut stems Burn or trash all fire blight prunings		
	Harvest: Rhubarb, greens, sometimes goumis!		
June	Continue weeding and mulching see above		
	Water Spring planted trees, shrubs and perennials once per week first year		
	Thin fruit sets of Peaches, Pears, Apples and sometimes Plums & Apricots Remove all fruitlets from first year trees Apples, pears, and Asian pears should be hand-thinned to 5" apart, max one per cluster Peaches should be hand thinned to 6-8" apart Plums and Apricots can benefit from thinning to 3" apart Start by removing fruit with obvious disease and pest damage, leaving larger, healthy fruit		
	Emergency pruning: Remove dead, diseased, damaged & root suckers		
	Pest and Disease Monitoring & Management (as needed) Prune out and dispose of flagging tips on peach and stone fruits from oriental fruit moth Gather and trash dropped and aborted fruit "June drops" Potential application of holistic and organic sprays as needed for specific pest and disease challenges Place bird netting over blueberries and cherries if desired Bag fruit for codling moth and apple maggot protection Beneficial insect releases: lacewings, trichogramma wasps Hang traps for apple maggot fly		
	Harvest: Rhubarb, strawberries, cherries, raspberries, blueberries, juneberries, honeyberries, goumis, currants, greens, some herbs		

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PHILADELPHIA ORCHARD PROJECT

Monthly Orchard Task List: July/Aug

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Name of Orchard: _____ Year: _____

Month	Tasks	Date(s)	Notes
July	Continue weeding Reduce weed pressure over time with thorough weeding Subsequently apply a thick layer of wood chips to disturbed areas Make sure area around tree trunks are clear of both weeds and mulch		
	Water Spring planted trees, shrubs and perennials once per week first year		
	Emergency pruning: Dead, diseased, damaged & root suckers		
	Pest and Disease Monitoring via weekly walk though		
	Pest and Disease Management (as needed) Apply thick kaolin clay or neem to trunk for borers if needed Spray Bt, Spinosad, neem, and/or holistic sprays timed to significant problem species as needed Remove dropped and diseased fruit		
	Remove branch spreaders from winter/spring		
	Harvest: Raspberries, blueberries, cherries, blackberries, apricots, peaches, mulberries, currants, gooseberries, herbs		
August	Continue weeding see above		
	Water Spring planted trees, shrubs and perennials once per week first year		
	Emergency pruning: Dead, diseased, damaged & root suckers		
	Summer bramble pruning Remove dead second year canes anytime between now and following spring Cut back new blackberry canes at 3'-4' height to induce side branching		
	Pest and Disease Monitoring via weekly walk though		
	Pest and Disease Management (as needed) Apply thick kaolin clay or neem to trunk for borers if needed Spray Bt, Spinosad, neem, and/or holistic sprays timed to significant problem species as needed Remove dropped and diseased fruit		
	Soil testing if desired		
Harvest: Blackberries, peaches, plums, figs, Asian pears, apples, grapes, cornelian cherries, jujubes, elderberries, rose hips, chokeberries, maypops, herbs			
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PHILADELPHIA ORCHARD PROJECT

Monthly Orchard Task List: Sept/Oct

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Name of Orchard: _____ Year: _____

Month	Tasks	Date(s)	Notes
September	Continue weeding Reduce weed pressure over time through thorough weeding Subsequently apply a thick layer of wood chips to disturbed areas		
	Water Spring planted trees, shrubs and perennials once per week first year		
	Pest and Disease Monitoring via weekly walk though		
	Pest and Disease Management (as needed) Cardboard band trees for codling moth Spray Bt, Spinosad, neem, and/or holistic sprays timed to significant problem species as needed Remove dropped fruit		
	Harvest: Apples, figs, pears, Asian pears, grapes, pawpaws, jujubes, everbearing raspberries, everbearing strawberries, quince, rose hips, pomegranates, kiwiberries, maypops, akebias, lingonberries, herbs		
October	Continue weeding Reduce weed pressure over time through thorough weeding Subsequently apply a thick layer of wood chips to disturbed areas		
	Water Spring planted trees, shrubs and perennials once per week first year		
	Pest and Disease Monitoring via weekly walk though		
	Pest and Disease Management (as needed) Remove decaying dropped fruit Gather and dispose of traps properly		
	Plant & transplant trees, shrubs and perennials as desired Fall planting has a slightly higher success rate and lesser watering needs Water new plants twice per week through November in dry conditions		
Harvest: Apples, pears, figs, persimmons, chestnuts, everbearing raspberries, quince, kiwiberries, che fruit, goji berries, lingonberries, wintergreen			

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PHILADELPHIA ORCHARD PROJECT

Monthly Orchard Task List: Nov/Dec

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Name of Orchard: _____ Year: _____

Month	Tasks	Date(s)	Notes
November	Protect and wrap figs and pomegranates after leaf drop Most figs need winter protection in our climate Use burlap, row cover, or wire cages packed with leaves		
	Leaf management Leaves of common fruits harbor disease After leaf fall, apply compost or compost tea to aid decomposition Otherwise, rake and discard diseased leaves and fallen fruit		
	Pest and Disease Monitoring via weekly walk through		
	Pest and Disease Management Remove decaying dropped fruit Potential holistic spray		
	Water Fall planted trees, shrubs and perennials twice per week through Nov		
	Harvest: persimmons, medlars, hawthorns, ginkgos		
December	Protect and wrap figs and pomegranates after leaf drop <i>If not completed in November, see above</i>		
	Update records Record nutrient and pesticide applications, pest pressure, yields, distribution, changes to plant list, and any other relevant data		
	Celebrate and review the season's successes & challenges		
	Complete Annual POP Partner Survey		
	Pest and Disease Management Remove and trash or burn trunk bands, traps, etc		
	Harvest: persimmons, medlars, hawthorns, ginkgos		
	Whip up some herbal tea and enjoy the Holiday season!		

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