



**PHILADELPHIA
ORCHARD PROJECT**

Orchard:

Year:

Name:

Monthly Orchard Task List

This is a reference and starting point that applies broadly to POP orchards and the plants included. Specifics will depend on each site and growing season. 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!

Month	Task	Date(s)	Notes
JAN	<p>Prune Fruit Trees (start with pome fruits and end with stone fruits) (all winter pruning can be completed anytime between Jan and early March) See POP Pruning Guide for more info 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</p>		
	<p>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</p>		
	<p>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</p>		
	<p>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)</p>		
	<p>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</p>		
	<p>Orchard tool maintenance Clean, sharpen, and repair</p>		
	FEB	<p>Continue winter pruning</p>	
<p>Pest and disease management (as needed) Remove mummified fruit - to reduce spread of disease. Dormant Oil Spray - for aphids and scale. Read and follow labels carefully (4% dilution). Sulfur/Copper Spray - Use only as last resort in case of severe crop losses or plant damage! Apply prior to bud swell for control of diseases including brown rot, fire blight, scab, peach leaf curl, etc. Wear protective clothing and eyewear and follow safety instructions.</p>			
Definitions:	<p>POME FRUITS have a small cluster of seeds at the center (apples, pears, and quince). STONE FRUITS have a pit in the center (apricots, cherries, hardy almonds, nectarines, peaches, and plums). DROPPED FRUITS fall to the ground before they're ripe, often due to pest or disease issues. Monitor and remove quickly (ideally every 2 days).</p>		
References:	<p>https://extension.psu.edu/home-orchard-calendar</p>		<p><i>The Holistic Orchard</i> by Michael Phillips</p>



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MAR	Cut back dead herbaceous material Disperse or compost seed heads and stalks if desired		
	Pest and Disease Monitoring (weekly walk though)		
	Pest and Disease Management (as needed) Apply dormant oil spray before bud break (first sign of growth) for aphids, scale, etc (see Feb above) Good timing to run chickens or ducks through orchard for pest control Spray Serenade, Bt, Spinosad, neem, and/or holistic sprays timed to significant problem species as needed		
	Apply compost, fertilizer, or compost tea to feed root system Just before bloom Read and follow labels carefully		
APR	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)		
	Pest and Disease Management (as needed) Copper/Sulfur fungicides for severe fire blight pre-bloom. BT and Spinosad for rampant moth and larva infestations Kaolin clay for plum 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 if monitoring moth mating flights		

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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		
	Holistic Orchard Sprays for general plant health and resilience Compost tea, neem oil, and/or herbal sprays Apply every 2 weeks		
	Pest and Disease Monitoring (weekly walk though)		
	Pest and Disease Monitoring & Management (as needed) Emergency pruning: Remove dead, diseased, damaged & root suckers Prune out and dispose of wilted brown branch tips (known as flagging) on peaches and other stone fruit caused by oriental fruit moth. Spray Kaolin Clay, Serenade, Bt, Spinosad, and/or neem timed to significant problem species as needed		
	Harvest: Rhubarb, greens, sometimes gomis.		
JUN	Continue weeding and mulching		
	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		
	Pest and Disease Monitoring (weekly walk though)		
	Pest and Disease Management (as needed) Emergency pruning: Remove dead, diseased, damaged & root suckers Prune out and dispose of flagging tips on peach and other stone fruits from oriental fruit moth Gather dropped fruit Spray Serenade, Bt, Spinosad, neem, and/or holistic sprays timed to significant problem species as needed Place bird netting over blueberries and cherries if desired Bag fruit when .5 -1" diameter 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, gomis, currants, greens, some herbs		

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JUL	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 (weekly walk though)		
	Pest and Disease Management (as needed) Spray Bt, Spinosad, neem, and/or holistic sprays timed to significant problem species as needed Remove dropped and diseased fruit Apply thick kaolin clay or neem to trunk for borers if needed		
	Remove branch spreaders from winter and spring		
	Harvest: Raspberries, blueberries, cherries, blackberries, apricots, peaches, mulberries, currants, gooseberries, herbs		
AUG	Continue weeding		
	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 (weekly walk though)		
	Pest and Disease Management (as needed) Spray Bt, Spinosad, neem, and/or holistic sprays timed to significant problem species as needed Remove dropped and diseased fruit Apply thick kaolin clay or neem to trunk for borers if needed		
	Soil testing if desired		
Harvest: Blackberries, peaches, plums, figs, Asian pears, apples, grapes, cornelian cherries, jujubes, elderberries, rose hips, chokeberries, maypops, herbs			
SEP	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		
	Pest and Disease Monitoring (weekly walk though)		
	Pest and Disease Management (as needed) Spray Bt, Spinosad, neem, and/or holistic sprays timed to significant problem species as needed Remove dropped fruit		
	Harvest: Apples, figs, pears, Asian pears, pawpaws, jujubes, almonds, hazels, everbearing raspberries, everbearing strawberries, quince, rose hips, pomegranates, grapes, kiwiberries, maypops, akebias, lingonberries, herbs		

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OCT	Continue weeding		
	Water Spring planted trees, shrubs and perennials - once per week first year		
	Pest and Disease Monitoring (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		
NOV	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 (weekly walk though)		
	Pest and Disease Management (as needed) Remove decaying dropped fruit Potential holistic spray		
	Water Fall planted trees, shrubs and perennials - twice per week through Nov		
	Harvest: Persimmons, medlars, hawthorns, ginkgos		
DEC	Protect and wrap figs and pomegranates after leaf drop If not completed in November, see above		
	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		

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