



APHIDS



Aphids are a common, tiny pest insect found on a wide variety of fruit trees, shrubs, vines, and herbaceous plants. Leaves curled end to end are the most common sign of aphid damage. Ants in your tree are another sure sign of aphid infestation, as their only interest in climbing trees is to harvest honeydew, which are the sweet aphid droppings. Aphids are generally a relatively minor challenge for most orchard plants but in large numbers, they can weaken the health of trees, lower fruit yield, and sometimes be a vector for diseases.

Month	Tasks	Observations & Dates Completed
Feb - Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply dormant oil or neem oil at 3 to 4% dilution before bud break to smother eggs and reduce overwintering pests. 	
Apr - May	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Spray Water. A strong stream of water can knock aphids off leaves and greatly reduce their populations. Be sure to hit the bottom of the leaves, as that's where most are found. As always, avoid wetting leaves during the heat of the day. Consider planting Umbel flowers like fennel, dill, coriander, etc to attract lacewings, parasitic wasps, and other beneficial insects that prey on aphids. In case of heavy infestation, spray affected areas with neem oil at 2% concentration. This can be reapplied every 10 days as needed. 	
Jun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider beneficial insect release of predatory beetles, lacewings, aphid midges, and/or parasitic wasps in the orchard. 	



Month	Tasks	Observations & Dates Completed
<p>Jul - Nov</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In case of heavy infestation, spray affected areas with neem oil at 2% concentration. This can be reapplied every 10 days as needed. 2. Spray Water. A strong stream of water can knock aphids off leaves and greatly reduce their populations. Be sure to hit the bottom of the leaves, as that's where most are found. As always, avoid wetting leaves during the heat of the day. 	

Resources Used:

[Monthly Orchard Task List](#) — [Aphids and Fruit Trees](#) — [Aphids - \(Giving Grove\)](#)