

The Giving Grove Fruit Management Calendar



<p>January</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a soil test, recommended every 3 years • Sign up for annual membership, or update your apprentice team information • Clean tools, sharpen tools, prepare for the season • Fertilize trees with slow release organic fertilizer (January until March) • Water trees if the month is dry and warm
<p>February</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prune apples and pears: prune for structure, air flow, remove dead or diseased wood • Spray dormant oil on fruit trees • Mow down or prune raspberry patch just above the crown • Attend Giving Grove workshops • Prune peaches end of February (or after risk of hard freezes)
<p>March</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand mulch rings on trees • Plant new trees and berries • Tip / prune blackberry laterals to 15" and remove all dead canes • Start spraying organic Holistic Spray regimen from bud swell to the week after petal fall (Do not spray while blossoms are open) • Remove tree wraps at the end of the month
<p>April</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue holistic sprays • Watch for signs of insect and disease issue • Pinch off fruits/flowers on all newly planted trees under 2 years old to encourage root and shoot growth • Begin weekly watering regime if it does not rain
<p>May</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 3+ year old trees, thin fruits leaving 6-8" between fruits on peaches, 4-6" for apples and pears. Do not allow them to touch! • Begin strawberry harvest • Apply Bt, Spinosad, or Holistic Spray to protect from Oriental Fruit Moth and Coddling Moth • Protect peach tree trunks from borers: spray neem, wrap with window screen and plant chives or garlic near the base of the tree
<p>June</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest serviceberries, cherries and early peaches like Harrow Diamond • Begin harvest of Natchez blackberries • Watch for and spray Spotted Wing Drosophila in berries and soft fruits • Remove brown rot in stone fruits, spray Sulfur as necessary • Watch for fire-blight on apples, pears and Asian pears; prune out any infection 6" below cankered bark • Protect fruits from Japanese Beetles using row cover or spray with Kaolin Clay and Neem (use a large volume trap for large turf areas) • Train young trees with limb spreaders

The Giving Grove Fruit Management Calendar



<p>July</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rejuvenate June-bearing strawberries (late June/early July) • Continue harvesting blackberries • Freeze, can, and dehydrate peaches • Harvest early season apples like Pristine, and pears like Harrow Diamond and Shinsui • Start tipping new blackberry canes and tie to the trellis line July through September • Remove blackberry canes that are done fruiting • Harvest second round of ever-bearing strawberries • Water weekly throughout the growing season if it does not rain at least 1 inch
<p>August</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prune water-sprouts and root-suckers on apples and pears, also prune to stunt tree growth if desired, including topping tree height • Harvest Asian pears: Kosui, Chojuro, Yoinashi; European pears: Sunrise, Blake's Pride, Potomac • Harvest European pears 1-2 weeks early because they do not ripen on the tree • Begin harvesting primocane (Caroline, Heritage) raspberries until hard freeze
<p>September</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest early Figs if we have had a hot summer • Harvest Apples: Liberty, Jonafree, Enterprise • Harvest Pears, Asian Pears: Warren, Shinko, Korean Giant • Harvest Jujubes and Pawpaws • Watch for borer damage on peach and cherry and other stone fruit trunks, dig out borers and spray area with Neem • Apply Milky Spore or Predator Nematodes for Japanese Beetles
<p>October</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest Apples: Sundance • Harvest Pears: Harrow Sweet, Kieffer • Dehydrate apple slices, make cider and pies
<p>November</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrap new trees with tree wrap to prevent rabbits and other rodents from chewing bark • Cage blueberries to keep rabbits away • Mow around trees to chop leaves and remove pest habitat • Use fall Holistic Spray to help decompose leaves, and kill over-wintering fruit pests • Aerate soil and add ½-1" compost around tree drip-line • Spray fungicide to treat peaches for leaf curl
<p>December</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mulch over strawberry plants with 2-3" of straw (after hard freeze) • Mulch trees with 2-3" of wood chips in 18" radius around tree • Cage and insulate figs with 2-4' of leaves before temperatures get below 15° • Read Michael Phillips, Lee Reich and other fruit tree authors • Expand mulch rings on trees • Water if dry and temperatures are staying above freezing