



Growing Fruit Trees: Apricots

Proper Care of Trees for Noxious Pest Avoidance

Important Notice:

Before planting fruit trees, it is the residential growers responsibility to familiarize oneself with the RDOS [Bylaw](#). It is necessary that proper care of fruit trees is taken to prevent & control pest infestations.

Before Planting your Tree

Apricot trees can only produce healthy fruit if home growers pay careful attention to pruning, sanitation, pest management, & harvest practices. If you are planting the tree for shade or ornamental purposes, consider planting an ornamental tree that will be less bothersome, costly to care for & manage.

General Apricot Tree Care

Sanitation: Diligent sanitation practice will reduce the risk of pest infestation. Remove dead & decaying fruit & leaves from the tree & ground. Maintain a good weeding & visual inspection routine to avoid pests.

Pruning: Avoid pruning in fall or winter to avoid winter injury, which makes the tree more susceptible to pests. In early spring (before bud break & at least two weeks after last frost), remove all dead & diseased branches first. Prune the upper part of the tree more than the lower to maximize sunlight & airflow.

Thinning: If crop is too heavy, thinning in early spring when fruit are 3/4 to 1 inch in diameter may be necessary to avoid small fruit size at harvest. Fruits should be spaced 1-2 inches apart.

Harvesting: Remove ALL fruit at harvest (June-Aug) & make sure all diseased & insect-infested fruit is destroyed properly. Check crop diligently & pick often to avoid fruit decomposition & pests. Unlike other fruits, apricots can ripen on or off the tree, so frequent harvest will be necessary.



Peach Twig Borer

CropHealth Advising & Research

Pest Avoidance & Management

Important: Avoid chemical intervention (pesticides) & use preventative strategies first. Keeping trees healthy by prioritizing sanitation practice will help reduce pest and disease problems.

Tree Netting & Bagging Fruit: Place horticultural bags around the fruit when small & leave on for the majority of the growth process. Both of these reduces the risk of pests, disease, & damage from birds.

Pesticides (last resort): If preventative measures are no longer adequate, consult professionals before use. Always begin with the least toxic product available first.

Pesticide Stewardship: Do not apply in daytime when bees are foraging or if wind speeds are high, or when rain is forecast.

[Tree Fruit Pest Control | RDOS](#)

NOTE: B.C. is bear country, including densely populated areas. Fruit trees are attractants for bears and must be maintained properly to keep wildlife wild and communities safe. www.wildsafebc.com

MOST COMMON APRICOT TREE PESTS

Peach Twig Borer

(25mm = 1 inch)

Aphids (Mealy Plum)



Larva



Larva & Damage

CropHealth Advising & Research



Various Life Stages



Infestation

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Adult



Larva inside fruit

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Various Life Stages



Curling Leaf Damage

Whitney Cranshaw, CSU, Bugwood.org

Ilia Ustyantsev

Identification: Check for wilting on developing shoots which is an indication of borer presence. Larvae will also feed on ripening fruit & holes will be seen at stem end.

Management: Frequently check for wilted shoots & destroy any larvae present. Infested fruit must be placed in a sealed bag to cook in the sun, or placed in a freezer for a few days to kill the pest before disposal.

Identification: Found on leaves or twigs in colonies. Curling leaves & slow growth of shoots & fruitlets may be seen. Newly hatched nymphs are pink & adults are a powdery translucent green. Sooty mold may arise due to the sweet, sticky honeydew produced by aphids.

Management: Check leaves before bud burst. Avoid excessive nitrogen application. Apply sticky banding around the trunk to keep ants that protect the aphids from natural predators away.

Earwigs



Adults



Adult in Pit

Whitney Cranshaw, CSU, Bugwood.org



Size Comparison



Nesting Site

Tom Oates, 2010

Identification: Earwigs are slender & red-brown in color with a pair of forceps-like appendages at tail. They are nocturnal & hide under the bark & soil during the day.

Management: Regularly inspect the tree for leaf & fruit damage. Place corrugated cardboard on the ground below the tree, and clear out regularly. Remove weeds & debris below tree & band trees with sticky plastic if needed.

Additional Info

Other Pests to Look out for

Shothole Borer, Ambrosia Beetle, Leafrollers, European Fruit Scale, San Jose Scale, Lecanium Scale, European Red Mite, Green Fruitworm etc.

Detailed Pest Descriptions Found Here

[Home & Garden Pest Management Guide for BC Pests of Fruit Trees.](#)

Okanagan Invasive Species Online

This is a useful resource for information on all invasive insect pests of concern in the region. This can be found at: www.OISO.ca



Plant Me Instead Factsheet

For ornamental & native tree or shrub alternatives for fruit bearing trees & shrubs, visit [Tree Fruit Pest Control | RDOS](#)

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Note

This is a very destructive pest that affects a wide range of fruits & vegetables. Send images or samples of the suspected stink bug to the BC Ministry of Agriculture or report [online](#).

Contact your local nursery/ greenhouse if you are unsure about what management strategy should be practiced & how to properly care for your fruit tree.

Noxious Pest Program Video Media:

[Regional District Okanagan Similkameen \(RDOS\) - YouTube](#)