

How Does the RDOS Control Tree Fruit Pests?



Black Cherry Aphid

A [Bylaw](#) provides the RDOS the authority to act on complaints or first hand observation of fruit bearing plants that are harboring infestations of pests on residential, commercial or industrial properties.

A suspected infestation results in contact with the property owner and a visit to the property to conduct inspections. If pests are found, the visit will be followed up with a letter. The letter will stipulate the necessity to deal with the infestation and proof of actions as required by the Regional District.

The RDOS is committed to the distribution of information to increase awareness about noxious pests. Along with print and electronic information, the RDOS consults with industry professionals and the Province to ensure the most up to date list of identified pests and mitigation options are available to the public.

For More Information

Pest Management:

BC Ministry of Agriculture Pest Management website:
www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/plant-health/integrated-pest-management

Plant Health/Pest Management:

www.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/plant-health

Home and Garden Pest Management:

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/plant-health/insects-and-plant-diseases/home-garden/home-and-garden-guide

Okanagan Invasive Species Online:

[Okanagan Invasive Species Online](#) | Invasive weeds, plants & wildlife (oiso.ca)

Selection of fruit bearing plants:

BC Tree Fruit Production Guide: www.bctfpg.ca/

Selection and care of apples, apricots, peaches, nectarines, cherries, berries, pears and plums:
www.greenvelvet.ca/tree-services/

Berry selection and care:

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriservice-bc/production-guides/berries

Wildlife management for fruit trees and shrubs:

Wildsafe BC - Bear Aware

www.rdos.bc.ca/public-works/wildsafe-bc-bear-aware/

RDOS Noxious Pests Bylaw:

<http://www.rdos.bc.ca/departments/public-works/pest-control/tree-fruit-pest-control/>

For more information contact: info@rdos.bc.ca
250-492-0237

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
101 Martin St., Penticton, BC
T: 250.492.0237 F: 250.492.0063
TF (BC/Alta): 1.877.610.3737
E: info@rdos.bc.ca

RDOS Public Works Department

Noxious Pest Avoidance in Residential Fruit Plantings



For Fruit Bearing Trees & Shrubs

What Homeowners Need To Know

Why are Residential Fruit Trees a Concern?

The Okanagan is BC's fruit basket. It boasts an abundance of commercial tree fruit orchards and farms, some over 100 years old.

With the steady increase of people moving to the region, land has been subdivided into building lots, or parcels. Many residents have inherited fruit trees that used to be part of an orchard operation or have planted urban fruit trees for improved food security, or as part of their landscaping.

Residential fruit trees can be a serious concern to commercial growers, when urban or residential trees are not properly maintained to be free of pests. In many cases, pests can fly into commercial operations, devastating the crop and livelihood of the producer. Packing Houses, the grocery industry have high standards. They pack, store and market only the best quality produce. Therefore, the farmer must ensure the fruit supply meets or exceeds that level of quality or the fruit will be rejected.

Well maintained plantings are more resistant to pest infestations and disease, produce higher quality fruit, and are not a threat to commercial growers.

Property owners should weigh the upfront and annual costs to properly maintain a tree or shrub. It may be worthwhile to avoid planting, remove the fruit tree, or plant an ornamental tree. Supporting local farmer's markets should also be considered.

What Does Proper Maintenance Mean?

Maintaining a healthy fruit tree or berry bush has several different components.

Feed and Care Requirements for Organic or Conventional Plantings:

- ✓ **Planted in proper location & soil for plant of choice.**
- ✓ **Receives proper amounts of water to grow.**
- ✓ **Additional feeding (fertilizing).**
- ✓ **Correctly pruned & thinned.**
- ✓ **Routinely checked for pests & disease on tree & fruit.**
- ✓ **Owner is knowledgeable of the types of pests & disease that affect your plant.**

For proper basic maintenance of fruit bearing plants, talking to a qualified person at a reputable garden center or tree expert will yield a bounty of information. Keeping a [diary file](#) on each fruit tree/shrub for quick reference is a good tip. Links to online resources are located on the back of this brochure and on the RDOS web site.



Codling Moth Damage



Spotted Wing Drosophila Larva

What Do I Need to Know?

Potential threats to fruit trees and shrubs can be separated into two categories: Pests and Diseases.

Pests are insects or mites that fly or crawl. **Diseases** are caused by fungus and bacteria.

Sometimes, pest damage is the way a disease can infect a plant, by depleting the plants resources or through an open wound on the wood. Common diseases include Powdery Mildew, Apple Scab, Fire Blight, Little Cherry Disease, Coryneum Blight etc.

Climate change is also playing a role. As winter temperatures warm, it is more likely a pest, that once could survive winter, may now be able to do so. Also, new pests may begin to find the Okanagan more hospitable.

Pests don't care about boundaries or if they affect the producers or homeowner's yield or their livelihood. They are only concerned with finding a good host and taking advantage of it.

Pests also come in the form of wildlife such as birds, deer and bears. To prevent wildlife damage see links on back of this brochure.



Spotted Wing Drosophila



Coryneum Blight



Brown Marmorated Stink Bug