

ORGANIC CHERRY CARE SCHEDULE

When choosing and planting trees, follow the guidelines in *Your Organic Orchard*. Also,

- Avoid planting closely related ornamentals like english laurel, flowering cherries and flowering plums, which can harbor diseases and pests. If these plants are in the vicinity of your cherry, monitor them as possible sources of infection.
- Cherries can get large! Be sure to choose a rootstock that will result in a maintainable tree, and prune carefully. The trees do not tolerate poor drainage.
- Cherries are very tempting to birds and squirrels; this is another reason to keep your tree small, and to exercise generosity in sharing your fruit!

In our area *cherry fruit fly*, *brown rot/blossom blight*, *bacterial canker*, and *shothole fungus/coryneum blight* are the major problems with cherries, though other pests do occur and we are happy to help you come up with a plan. Talk with our staff or an experienced friend to identify pests and diseases before deciding on a response.

TIMING	CARE AND MONITORING
<p>Dormant after leaf drop through mid winter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rake and remove any leaves or fallen fruit. (<i>bacterial canker</i>, <i>shothole fungus</i>, etc.) • Prune trees for structure, air circulation, access, and production. (<i>Peach leaf curl</i>, <i>powdery mildew</i>, <i>brown rot</i>, etc.) • If <i>shothole fungus</i> has been a problem, spray copper or Serenade after leaf fall. • Apply lime within the dripline of the tree, and then mulch to contain fungal spores. (<i>shothole fungus</i>, <i>blossom blight</i>) • If the trunk gets southern or western sun, paint it white to prevent <i>winter damage</i> to the bark (can lead to <i>bacterial canker</i>).
<p>Delayed Dormant March -April</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pruning cherry trees in wet weather can invite <i>bacterial canker</i>. If you must prune (because of damage), wait for dry weather and clean your pruners between cuts; otherwise prune after harvest. • Release mason bees, provide clean housing. • As leaves start to open, fertilize young trees for structural growth according to instructions on container. Overfertilizing can encourage problems. • If large numbers of <i>leafrollers</i> have been a problem, try spraying Bt. • Plant seeds and starts of beneficial insect attracting plants. • Re-apply mulch after fertilizing to contain spores. (<i>shothole fungus</i>, <i>blossom blight</i>)

TIMING	CARE AND MONITORING
<p>Prebloom Green tip to tight cluster</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertilize according to instructions on container. • Watch young trees (especially their first 2 years) for signs of <i>bacterial canker</i>; note which stems to prune out when there is dry weather. • Remove leaves that are hosting <i>leafrollers</i>, and those most damaged by <i>shothole fungus</i>.
<p>Blossom</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you see <i>blossom rot</i>, prune out (in a dry period) and apply a fungicide (Serenade, copper, sulfur*) to help prevent re-infection. • Put out yellow sticky traps for <i>cherry fruit fly</i>. • Put out a number of vinegar or wine fruit fly type traps for <i>spotted wing drosophila</i>, which looks like a kitchen fruit fly (vinegar fly). Identification can be difficult; refer to Portland Nursery or your county extension agent.
<p>Late Spring through harvest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor traps for <i>cherry fruit fly</i>. Treatment should be applied within seven days of capturing the first adult. Spinosad† every 7 days, stopping at least 7 days before harvest. • Hang decoy cherries (shiny red balls) in the tree a couple of weeks before the fruit is ripe to discourage <i>robins</i>. • Monitor fruit for <i>brown rot (blossom rot)</i> spots, remove affected fruit. Damaged fruit will be infected easily and spread infection. • Get bird netting over some portion of your tree before it ripens (<i>birds and squirrels</i>). • Harvest fruit promptly, as soon as it is ripe. Continue to clean up all fallen fruit. A layer of dense mulch (or weed barrier cloth) can prevent the larvae of <i>cherry fruit fly</i> from burrowing into the ground.
<p>Post harvest Late summer into fall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prune tree to encourage a strong, open, accessible structure. • Remove all fruits from the tree, including any “mummy” fruits, and destroy. (<i>blossom blight, cherry fruit fly</i>) • Put out a number of vinegar or wine fruit fly type traps for <i>spotted wing drosophila</i>. Get assistance for identification. • Beneficial nematodes applied in the drip zone can help control the larvae of <i>cherry fruit fly</i>. • Remove used traps.

* Do not spray sulfur if temperatures exceed 85° F.

† Note insecticides can harm beneficial insects, use with caution and do not spray while flowers are blooming.