

Peach Leaf Curl

Now is the time to prevent peach leaf curl. In the spring did your peach or nectarine trees look like someone threw hot oil on it and the leaves blistered? You have peach leaf curl.

Peach leaf curl is a fungal disease that affects only peach and nectarine trees. Distorted, reddened foliage in the spring is a distinctive symptom. If the infection continues untreated for several years, the tree will decline. Treatment in spring, after symptoms appear, won't be effective.

Treat trees with a copper fungicide. See your garden center for recommendations.

Treat just after leaves have fallen in late November or December.

A second application in late winter, especially during wet winters.

Don't apply fungicides during the growing season.

A rule of thumb is to apply fungicides at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Valentine's.

Look for symptoms in spring.

New leaves redden and pucker

A second set of normal laves will replace fallen leaves, and the tree will appear normal.

Choose effective fungicides.

The safest effective products available for backyard trees are copper soap (copper octanoate) or the fixed copper fungicide (copper ammonium).

Apply these with a horticultural oil.

Yes, my tree has peach leaf curl. I only sprayed once in the winter. When we have wet winters 2 to 3 sprays are recommended.

For more information on peach leaf curl, visit ipm.ucdavis.edu