



FEBRUARY PEST TIPS FOR NEVADA COUNTY

Abiotic Disorders - Prevent or manage damage, such as that caused by aeration deficit, frost, hail, herbicides, wind, and too much or little water.

[Ants](#) - Manage around landscape and building foundations, such as using insecticide baits and trunk barriers.

[Asian citrus psyllid](#) - Look for it and if found where not known to occur report it and other new or [exotic pests](#) to your local county agricultural commissioner.

[Carpenter bees](#) - Paint or varnish and seal wood in which they nest. If intolerable, treat tunnels during fall or early spring.

[Compost](#) - Turn and keep it moist. Cover during rainy weather if needed to avoid sogginess.

Continue [rainy-season prevention of diseases](#), [earwigs](#), [snails and slugs](#), and [weeds](#).

Deter borers in fruit and nut trees e.g., [paint trunk and scaffolds with white](#) interior latex paint diluted with an equal amount of water.

[Fire blight](#) - Look for oozing and dead limbs on pome plants such as apple, crabapple, pear, and pyracantha. If a problem in the past, apply blossom sprays to prevent new infections.

[Frost](#) - Protect sensitive plants from cold injury when freezing or frost are predicted.

[Grape diseases](#) - Monitor for powdery mildew, Eutypa dieback, Phomopsis cane and leaf spot, and others. Prune, remove, or treat as appropriate.

Implement [disease and insect control](#) for apple, pear, stone fruits, nut trees, and deciduous landscape trees and shrubs such as roses.

[Irrigation](#) - Adjust watering schedules according to the weather and plants' changing need for water. Reduce irrigation frequency or turn off systems if rainfall is adequate. Irrigate deeply but infrequently if the winter is dry.

[Mosquitoes](#) - Eliminate standing water e.g., in gutters, drain pipes, and flowerpots. Place *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis* in birdbaths and ponds to selectively kill mosquito larvae.

[Mulch](#) - Apply organic mulch where thin or soil is bare beneath trees and shrubs.

[Oak pit scale](#) - Spray terminals with oil or apply another insecticide if scales are causing tree decline.

[Olive knot](#) and **[oleander gall, or knot](#)** - Avoid pruning olive and oleander during wet weather if stem galls are a problem.

[Peach leaf curl](#) - Apply preventive spray once or more during late fall through bud break if leaf curl has been a problem on nectarine or peach.

[Petal blight of azalea, rhododendron](#), and **[camellia](#)** - Remove and discard old flowers. Apply fresh organic mulch beneath plants.

[Plant](#) bare root deciduous trees, shrubs, and vines e.g., caneberries, fruit and nuts, grapes, and roses. Plant seedlings of cedar, fir, pine, and spruce. Select species and cultivars well-adapted to the local site.

[Prune](#) deciduous trees and shrubs that need pruning such as apple, crape myrtle, pear, rose, spirea, and stone fruits. Make cuts properly to encourage good form and structure. Remove dead, diseased, and borer-infested wood. Certain pests (e.g. shothole borer) and host plants such as apricot and cherry warrant summer pruning.

[Root rot](#) - Favored by excessive water and poor drainage. Avoid overirrigation and waterlogged soil.

[Sycamore scale](#) - Check for presence of pest. Difficult or impractical to control on large trees.

[Yellowjackets](#) - Place out and maintain lure traps or water traps.