

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS FOR BACKYARD PEAR TREES on the North Coast

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General Information: The most common pears grown in Lake and Mendocino Counties are Bartlett (harvested in August) and Bosc (harvested in early September). Pollinizer varieties are not needed in most major varieties grown in California, as long as maximum temperatures during bloom are 60° F or more. Trees in coastal locations will probably benefit from pollinizers due to the cooler climate.

Winter Dormant Season

1. Spray trees with dormant oil to control San Jose scale, mite eggs and overwintering adult pear psylla (best to do on a sunny day).
2. Prune out broken and diseased (fire blight) limbs and thin out about 20% of last year's growth to let light into the tree.

Spring Bloom Season

1. Spray trees with a fungicide to prevent pear scab at the green tip stage, full bloom and at 10 day intervals until rain stops. Use benomyl or liquid lime sulfur.
2. Once the frost season is safely past (after June 1), you may thin pears to about 6 inches apart **if** there is a heavy crop.
3. Fertilize with 2 lbs. of urea, 5 lbs. ammonium sulfate or 3 lbs. ammonium nitrate. Manure should be applied in the fall.

Summer

1. Spray trees with carbaryl or summer oil (less effective however) to control codling moth (worms). Carbaryl will act as a blossom and fruit thinner when applied around flowering. It may also cause spider mites to flare up during the summer. For the spring brood, begin 10-14 days after the petals fall, then repeat twice at 2-week intervals. For the summer brood, repeat sprays monthly until August (for example, May 1, May 15, June 1, July 1, August 1). More accurate monitoring may be done with pheromone traps.
2. Remove fruit with the worms **still inside** through the season; destroy the wormy fruit away from the trees. Bands of corrugated cardboard (the corrugated part inside) may be wrapped around the upper trunk to trap the worms. Remove the bands on July 1, August 1 and in the fall.

3. Drip irrigate on a daily basis to provide just what the trees are using or basin/sprinkler irrigate about every 3-4 weeks applying at least 3-5 inches of water each time. Use a shovel or auger to monitor soil moisture.

4. Fertilize young trees monthly using half of the above rates.

Autumn Harvest Season

1. Harvest pears when sweet but still firm. The stem should separate easily from the spur when the fruit is gently lifted. Fruit should ripen in about five days at room temperature. Winter varieties, e.g. Bosc and Comice ripen better after being refrigerated for about one week.

2. If no spring fertilizer was applied, apply manure (well-rotted, no weed seeds) at 40 lbs. (poultry) or 80 lbs. (steer) per tree.

UC Publications of Interest (available from the UCCE office)

Pruning Fruit and Nut Trees	#21171	\$3.00
Saving Water in the Home Orchard	# 7098	free
Codling Moth	Pest Note #13	free
Controlling Codling Moth in Home Orchards in Lake and Mendocino Counties		free
Fire Blight	Pest Note #15	free
The Many Varieties of Lake County Pears	--	free

WARNING ON THE USE OF CHEMICALS

Always read and carefully follow all precautions and safety recommendations given on pesticide container labels. Store all chemicals in their original labeled containers in a locked cabinet or shed away from food or feeds and out of the reach of children, unauthorized persons, pets and livestock.

Confine chemicals to the property being treated. Avoid drift onto neighboring properties.

Mix and apply **ONLY** the amount of pesticide you will need. Follow label directions for disposing of containers. **Never burn pesticide containers.**

PHYTOTOXICITY: Certain chemicals may cause plant injury if used at the wrong stage of plant development or when temperatures are too high. Injury may also result from excessive amounts or the wrong formulation or from mixing incompatible materials.

To simplify information, trade names of products have been used. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned.