



ASK A MASTER GARDENER

WHEN TO PRUNE APRICOT TREES

By Elaine Applebaum, Placer County Master Gardener

Q Is it true you're not supposed to prune apricot trees during the dormant season? If so, why, and when should I prune?

A Apricot trees should not be pruned in the winter because they are susceptible to a disease called Eutypa dieback. This fungal infection arises when spores, which are spread by rain water, enter the tree through pruning cuts that haven't had a chance to fully close. The disease causes twigs or whole limbs to suddenly wilt and die in late spring or summer.

Wait to prune your apricot tree until July or August, after harvest. By pruning at least six weeks before the start of winter rains, the tree will have a chance to close the wounds and prevent entry of the fungal spores.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



PLACER COUNTY

11477 E Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 889-7385

E-Mail: ceplacer@ucdavis.edu

The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. Inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the Affirmative Action Director, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 1111 Franklin, 6th Floor, Oakland, California 94607-5200. (510) 987-0096. United States Department of Agriculture, University of California, Placer & Nevada Counties cooperating.

NEVADA COUNTY

255 So Auburn
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 273-4563

E-Mail: cenevada@ucdavis.edu

Placer County Hotline: (530) 889-7388. Visit us online at <http://pcmg.ucanr.org>