



SUGGESTED SPRAY SCHEDULE FOR HOME GARDEN APPLES

Updated 2026

Mandatory sprays



Growth Stage	Description	Target Information	Chemical Sprays	Important
Delayed-Dormant 	In late winter, just as buds begin to show first green tissue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ San Jose scale, aphids, and European red mite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Horticultural oil (E.g. Bonide All Seasons Horticultural Spray Oil, Monterey Horticultural Oil) 	Follow directions on label carefully to avoid plant damage. Spray when daytime temperature is between 45 – 55 F, with no frost forecast overnight. Finish spraying by noon to ensure good dry time.
Pink 	As flowers balloon, but before flowers open.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Apple powdery mildew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Horticulture oil (E.g. Bonide All Seasons Horticultural Spray Oil, Monterey Horticultural Oil) ➤ Sulfur (E.g. Bonide Sulfur Plant Fungicide) 	Do not use sulfur within 2 weeks of an oil treatment. Sulfur not recommended if temperatures within 3 days of application are expected to exceed 85 F.
Bloom	When flowers are open.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fire blight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coppers (E.g. Bonide Copper Fungicide, Captain Jack's Copper Fungicide) ➤ <i>Bacillus Subtilis</i> (E.g. Serenade Garden Disease Control) 	<p>Fire blight sprays are only needed if you have 2 days of warm temperatures (65+) before a predicted rain. Protective spray MUST go on before rain.</p> <p>Avoid insecticide application during bloom to protect honeybees!!!!</p>

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<p>Petal Fall</p>	<p>Just after petals fall from blossoms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Apple powdery mildew ➤ Aphids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Horticultural oil ➤ Potassium Laurate (E.g. Garden Safe Insecticidal Soap, Safer Brand Insect Killing Soap Concentrate II) ➤ Neem (E.g. Captain Jacks Neem Max Concentrate) 	<p>Do Not Use horticultural oil if Sulfur was used in “Pink”.</p> <p>Seldom build up to damaging levels in home garden fruit trees. Wash them off with stream of water from the hose, you rarely have to spray.</p>
<p>Late Spring through Summer</p>	<p>May to September</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Codling moth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Horticultural oil ➤ Esfenvalerate (E.g. Bug Buster II) ➤ Spinosad (E.g. Bonide Captain Jacks Deadbug Brew). ➤ Kaolin clay (E.g. Surround WP) ➤ Lambda-cyhalothrin (E.g. Bonide Fruit Tree & Plant Guard Concentrate) <p>In place of intensive sprays, exclusion netting over the entire tree will keep codling moth from entering. If larvae or pupae are already inside the net they can still do damage.</p>	<p>PRIMARY PEST OF APPLES. Start preventative sprays of fruit 14-18 days after full bloom and apply weekly (or every 10-14 days depending on the label) for 12 weeks. Re-apply after rain.</p> <p>Remove infested apples from the tree, seal in black garbage bags, and dispose of immediately in municipal waste.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Apple maggot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Spinosad (E.g. Monterey Garden Insect Spray) 	<p>Use insect traps to monitor (e.g. yellow sticky card + ammonium lure). Apply first in early July if insects are found in traps.</p>
<p>Additional Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ CAUTION – Read this guide carefully. Read the product label directions carefully. Read and follow all label directions for responsible use of any pesticide. THE LABEL IS THE LAW. ◆ Pesticide resistance – Vary products during the season and in following seasons to minimize pest resistance. ◆ Too much fruit to handle – <i>Cut down tree and purchase quality fruit for use. Help commercial orchards by maintaining good care and pest management practices for your desired fruit trees!!!</i> ◆ Washington State Administrative Code RCW 15.09.060 requires owners to control horticultural pests and diseases. ◆ Trade name disclaimer – Use of trade names are for example purposes only. No endorsement is intended. Other appropriately labeled products containing similar active ingredients should provide similar levels of control. 			

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Sprays needed only if insect is present



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Pink 	As flowers balloon, but before flowers open.	➤ Grape mealy bug	➤ Zeta-cypermethrin (E.g. GardenTech Sevin Insect Killer Ready To Spray)	Not needed unless mealy bug was present the previous year.
		➤ Hatching insect pests such as mealybug, lygus bug, stinkbug, aphid, mites.	➤ Potassium laurate (E.g. Garden Safe Brand Insecticidal Soap Insect Killer) ➤ Esfenvalerate (E.g. Bug Buster II)	Controls only needed if insects are present.
		➤ Feeding caterpillars such as leaf rollers, army or cut worms	➤ Spinosad (E.g. Monterey Garden Insect Spray) ➤ <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> (Bt) (E.g. Bonide Thuricide Bacillus Thuringiensis (BT))	Control only needed if caterpillars present.
Petal Fall	Just after petals fall from blossoms.	➤ Hatching insect pests such as mealybug, lygus bug, stinkbug, aphid, mites.	➤ Potassium laurate (E.g. Garden Safe Brand Insecticidal Soap Insect Killer, Safer Brand Insect Killing Soap Concentrate II) ➤ Esfenvalerate (E.g. Bug Buster II)	Control only needed if insects are present.
		➤ Feeding caterpillars such as leaf rollers, army or cut worms	➤ Spinosad (E.g. Monterey Garden Insect Spray) ➤ <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> (Bt) (E.g. Bonide Thuricide Bacillus Thuringiensis (BT))	Control only needed if caterpillars present.
Late Spring & Summer	May to September	➤ Feeding caterpillars such as leaf rollers, army or cut worms	➤ Spinosad (E.g. Monterey Garden Insect Spray) ➤ <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> (Bt) (E.g. Bonide Thuricide Bacillus Thuringiensis (BT))	Control only needed if caterpillars present.

Compiled by Paula Dinius, Urban Horticulturist, WSU Chelan County Extension. Revised May 13, 2026 Tianna DuPont, Dani Gray, WSU Extension; Elizabeth Beers, WSU Entomology.

With questions contact your local Master Gardener AskMasterGardener@ChelanDouglasMG.org (509) 667-6540.

For bloom stages visit <https://ecommons.cornell.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/317dc529-3265-4f8c-87a2-473c2e3e790b/content>

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