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Pest Control and Fertilizer Schedule for Dooryard Citrus

Pest Control

Scouting for pests and treating only when necessary is the preferred method. Most pest problems (in mature trees) cause cosmetic damage and do not alter the taste of the fruit. Read all pesticide labels carefully before buying and using these products. As with all pesticides, the intended crop must appear on the label for legal use on that plant species.

DECEMBER – JANUARY

- No pest control action needed. January is a good time for planting or transplanting trees.

FEBRUARY

- **Scab** susceptible varieties include grapefruit, Temple, Murcott, lemons, sour orange, Satsuma, and Minneola tangelo. Sprays may be required only if disease has been a problem in previous years. Temple is usually the only variety that requires control of scab.
- If sprays are required, a copper fungicide should be applied to prevent infection on new growth and young fruit with scab. Additional sprays may be required at monthly intervals to prevent infection of additional flushes or expanding fruit. Copper will also control *Alternaria* on Dancy tangerine and Minneola tangelo.
- **Aphids** may become a problem on new growth on young trees. If present, apply horticultural oil or insecticidal soap. Control on bearing trees is generally not needed as damage is not usually significant enough to warrant spray.
- For citrus **leafminers** (on new growth) little control is available. Either leave it alone or spray with horticultural oil twice, spaced two weeks apart. This will give some protection to a new flush of growth.

MARCH – APRIL

- For **rust mites** and **spider mites**, apply a horticultural oil or a general miticide registered for citrus.
- You may apply a post-bloom nutritional spray containing copper, zinc and manganese when approximately 2/3 of the petals have fallen. The copper in the nutritional spray is the second spray for Scab or *Alternaria* and will help control melanose.* If you do not use a nutritional spray, use another product containing copper fungicide and registered for use on citrus for Scab.

*Most cases we do not generally recommend spray for melanose control.

NOTE: **Never** mix any products containing oil and sulfur. Wait three weeks between applications of products containing oil and sulfur.

MAY

· **Whiteflies** and **scale** may be a problem. They secrete a honeydew upon which black sooty mold grows. Control with horticultural oil or insecticidal soap. These will make the sooty mold eventually fall from surface leaves and/or fruit surfaces.

JUNE – JULY

· To prevent greasy spot, the timing of the spray is critical. Apply horticultural oil sometime during the period June 15 to July 15.

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER – NOVEMBER

· Miticides (horticulture oil) may be used for rust mites and spider mites, if needed.

Materials	Pests Controlled
Copper fungicide	Scab, greasy spot, alternaria, melanose
Horticultural oil*	Most scale insects and mites, aphids, whiteflies, mealy bugs, grasshoppers and katydids
Miticides, horticultural oil*	Rust mites and spider mites

- * ① Do not apply within 3 weeks of sulfur. Do not apply when temperature is over 94°F.
② Do not spray oil after October as this may increase tree susceptibility to cold damage.
③ Oil applied in fall may inhibit solids formation and retard fruit coloring.

Fertilizer Schedule

Young Trees are one to five years after planting. A recommendation is to mark on your calendar the dates you need to fertilize your trees.

Years Since Planting	Number of Applications per Year	Pounds per Tree per Application 3
First	5-6	0.75-1.25
Second	4-5	1.75-2.25
Third	3-4	3.00-4.00
Fourth	3-4	3.50-4.50
Fifth	3-4	4.00-5.00

² Recommended fertilizer analysis is 8-8-8 for N-P-K with micronutrients (1.6-0.4-0.2-0.025 for Mg-Mn-Cu-B)

³ Lower number refers to first application of the year with rates gradually increased until the last application is using the rate suggested by the last number in the range.

For **newly planted trees**, during the first year apply fertilizer about every six weeks from February through October. Fertilization should start when swelling buds indicate that growth is beginning or three weeks after planting. It is important to remove suckers from the base of the tree as they arise. Very vigorous vertical shoots known as water sprouts or suckers should also be removed.

For **Older Trees** (ones that were planted over five years ago) fertilize only three times per year: late January – February, May, and October – November. The rate is one pound per year of tree age up to a *maximum* of ten pounds per application. This means that a fully mature tree (one that is 10 years or older) would receive three separate applications of ten pounds for a total of thirty pounds of fertilizer per year.