

Orchard pests need control

There are many disease and insect pests that can ruin entire crops of apples, peaches, plums, or other tree fruits.

Although fruits grown in the home orchard do not need as much care as those grown commercially, good horticultural and pest management practices are necessary.

Fruit tree management begins with choosing varieties adapted to your growing area.

Disease and insect problems often are more severe on varieties not adapted and plant survival may be poor due to winter injury (freeze injury), heat stress, or other environmental stresses. In addition, fruit quality may be poor.

Good tree growth should be maintained.

This requires proper liming prior to planting and fertilization of established plantings. Grass and weeds can severely stunt young trees.

Trees should be mulched or all grass and weeds removed from the area extending from the trunk to beneath the drip-line (edge of branches).

Pruning is extremely important for maintaining tree vigor, preventing limb breakage and aiding pest control.

Many of the microorganisms that cause diseases live in dead or injured wood and spread from this wood onto the fruit and foliage. Be sure to remove all dead and weak wood when pruning in the winter or spring.

Although the extent of pest injury can vary greatly from year to year, certain fruits are more likely to have problems than are others. For instance, stone fruits (nectarines, peaches, plums, cherries) generally require more care than pome fruits (apples, pears). The tree fruits requiring the most care to those which require the least are nectarine, peach, cherry, plum, apple, and pear.

Extension News Willie Featherstone Jr. County Extension Chairman



Conditions which favor disease development or insect occurrence vary depending on the particular disease or insect.

Generally, warm, rainy, damp conditions are very conducive for infection and development of diseases affecting fruit crops. For best disease control, disease control chemicals should be applied before rainfall occurs.

There are certain times of the year when specific disease and insect pests are most likely to cause damage, thus timely application of chemicals is important.

For certain pests, controls must be applied before the growing season starts. Your county agricultural extension office has Horticultural Information Leaflets, Plant Pathology Information Notes.

Entomology Information Notes, and North Carolina Extension Service publications which provide detailed information on pest control and production practices for fruit crops.

Your county agent can also help with pest identification and offer timely suggestions for your specific pest problems. In addition, Extension Teletip provides information

on fruit production and pest control by calling 1-800-662-7301.

By following this home fruit spray guide, losses to disease and insect pests should be minimal. Sprays applied every 2 to 3 weeks are essential to produce good quality fruit.

Use of excessive amounts of pesticides may cause injury and are wasteful.

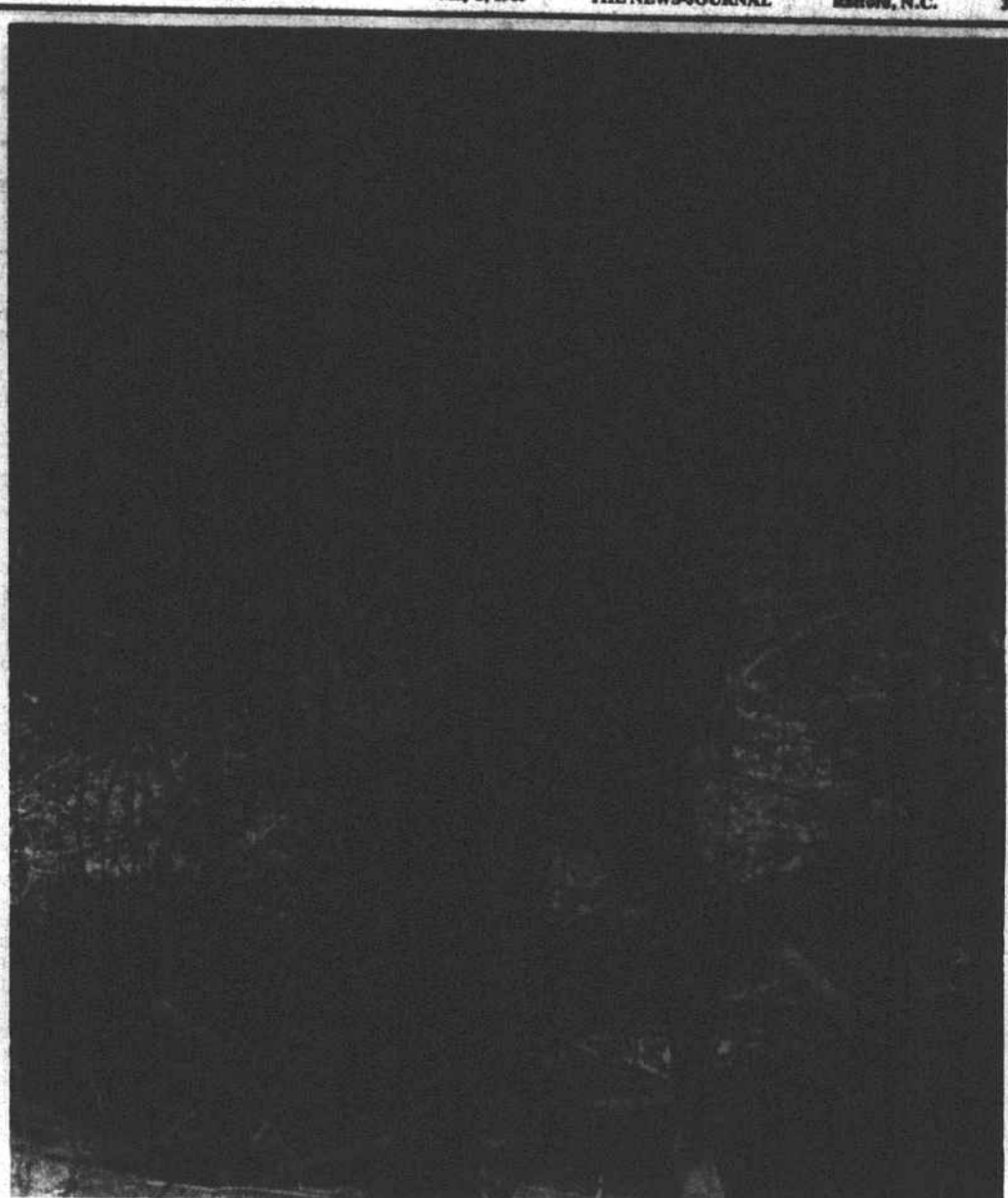
Home fruit spray mixtures can be purchased at many garden centers and may be more economical for homeowners who have only a few trees. Contents of the home fruit spray mixtures vary considerably; try to select those which contain the chemicals listed in the home fruit spray guide.

Persons using rigorous cultural and sanitation practices may not need to follow the spray guide as closely.

The pesticides listed were chosen because they are relatively safe for use near the home, effective against a wide range of fruit diseases and insects, and generally available at many garden centers. Remember, pesticides are designed to kill pests and as such they should be used and stored with extreme care. Always read and follow the directions on the container before using the pesticide.

*Although these pesticides will control most disease and insect pests, there are certain times that a substitute or additional pesticide is recommended for control of a specific pest.

Combination spray for disease and insect control		Amount to Use In Water	
Pesticide	To	Use*For 1 Gallon	For 10 Gallons
Captain 50% wettable powder	1.5 tablespoons	5 oz.
PLUS			
IMIDAN 50% wettable powder	1.0 tablespoon	3 oz.
(phosmet)			
OR			
Malathion 25% wettable powder	4.0 tablespoons	7 oz.
PLUS			
**Methoxychlor 50% wettable powder	2.0 tablespoons	4 oz.



Taking a bow
This goat on Larry Brazier's Rockfish farm seems to be standing up to bow to those passing by her pen.

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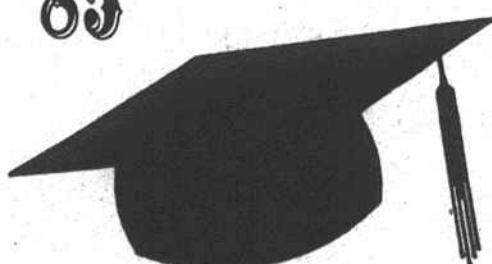
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