

# Problems with Fruit Trees

## Growing fruit trees in western Washington can be tough.

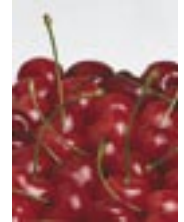
Fruit grows and ripens best when exposed to warmth and sun. Our summers are often cool and cloudy, making it difficult for fruit to ripen properly and increasing the chance of disease. Several insects also prey on fruit trees in our area. Fruit trees

Diseases	Identification
Powdery mildew	Leaves and stems erupt in a fuzzy, whitish coating that resembles white powder.
Fire blight/brown rot	Look for sudden wilting and browning of flower parts. Fruit shows soft, brown spots.
Shot hole	Fruit lesions are light brown with dark purple margins.
Peach leaf curl	New leaves have a puckered texture with reddish spots.
Apple scab	Fruit has brown, velvety or corky surface lesions. Leaves have similar spots.

Insects	Identification
Apple maggot	Look for larva tunnels in fruit. Adult flies are about ¼ inch long, with a black abdomen and white bands.
Codling moth	Larvae make entry holes on the side of apples. Adult moths are speckled gray-brown and slightly larger than a house fly.
Cherry bark tortrix	Reddish-brown frass tubes protrude from tree bark. Adult moths are colorful, with light orange, gray and black forewings.
Scale	Adults live under a protective coating, which appear as raised bumps on bark. Bumps may be oval, circular or white masses.

need to be maintained correctly. They require regular pruning for health, strength and yield.



## What you can do

- Buy resistant varieties. WSU Extension and others have tested fruit trees and found varieties that are less prone to disease. Visit our web site for sources.
- Save yourself a headache! Remove plants that are prone to problems.
- Hire a certified arborist, or visit Plant Amnesty's web site to learn about proper pruning techniques. Our web site has a link.
- Sanitation is very important to reduce disease problems. Rake up and dispose of fallen leaves. Do not compost leaves from diseased trees.

## What In Harmony can do

- Apply pyrethrins, natural insecticides produced by certain species of chrysanthemums.
- Apply neem oil. Neem is a botanical insecticide, miticide and fungicide treatment derived from the seeds of the neem tree.
- Apply horticultural oil, a highly refined petroleum oil which is safe and has limited effects on beneficial insects.
- Apply lime sulphur, a safe, least toxic control for a variety of diseases.
- Apply a fungicide. We do this only if absolutely necessary and only in very limited amounts.

