

SAN LORENZO GARDEN CENTER

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Fall and Winter Dormant Spraying

During the fall and winter, deciduous trees and shrubs drop their leaves and suspend growth as a protection against the cold of winter. During this time an insecticide and/or a fungicide is applied, a Dormant Spray.

Dormant spraying of fruit and nut trees, roses, deciduous ornamental trees and shrubs is one of the most important garden care practices to improve and prolong the life of the plant. The Dormant Spray mixture consists of a fungicide (e.g. Lime-sulfur or fixed copper) and an insecticide (e.g. Horticultural Grade Oil, Volck Oil, or dormant Oil). All of these products are listed by CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers) as approved for use on Organic Farms.

The function of the Copper and Sulfur spray mixtures are to kill overwintering fungal organisms such as Peach Leaf Curl, Powdery Mildew, Rust, Black spot, Brown Rot and Anthracnose. Horticultural Oil is used in the spray to kill overwintering insects such as Mites, Aphids, Scale and their eggs. Horticultural oils also act as an adhesive (spreader/sticker) for the fungicide, to better adhere it to the plant. Dormant spraying of fruit and nut trees requires three applications to ensure good control of pests and diseases.

1. Late November: Pruning of fruit and nut trees should be done now. Clean up any fallen leaves and discard. If there are any leaves left on the tree these will fall after spraying. Spray.
2. Late December: Clean up any fallen leaves and discard. Spray.
3. Late January: This is the final time to spray and the most critical because it is important to time this spraying before the flower or leaf buds show color. Prune and spray roses in late December or early January and spray again within 30 days, before leaf bud break.

Dormant spraying of Ornamental trees and shrubs is not always necessary. If you did experience an insect or fungal problem during the growing season then spray according to the label directions for that disease while the plant is dormant.

Spray equipment consists of Hose End Sprayers for larger trees and Tank Sprayers for smaller trees and shrubs.

If it rains within 24 hours of spraying, repeat application. Read and follow all product label warnings and directions carefully. DO NOT spray on windy or rainy days. ALWAYS wear the proper clothing, rubber gloves, eye protection and a respirator.