



Simplified Backyard Peach & Stone Fruit Spray Guide

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INTRODUCTION

Peach, nectarine, apricot, plum, and cherry are all stone fruits. Production of these tree fruits requires pest and disease management programs for quality fruit. Home orchards are no different. Homeowners, however, are generally more tolerant of aesthetic maladies or minor crop losses than commercial orchardists. Thus, homeowners may choose to limit numbers of insecticide and fungicide sprays. Disease resistant cultivars are the preferred method for reducing spray inputs. Bacterial spot resistant peach cultivars are listed in *Peach Cultivar Performance* (HO-6). Information on cultivars, as well as additional pest management information, can be found in the *Midwest Home Fruit Production Guide*. Using bags to mechanically exclude insect pests is an alternative management for home fruit production. A more detailed spray guide including options for organic growers, as well as pictures of stone fruit growth stages, may be found in *Disease and Insect Control Programs for Homegrown Fruit in Kentucky* (ID-21).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Disease and Insect Control Programs for Homegrown Fruit in Kentucky, Including Organic Alternatives, ID-21 (University of Kentucky) <http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/id/id21/id21.pdf>
- Entomology Insect and Pest EntFacts (University of Kentucky) <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/entfacts>
- Midwest Home Fruit Production Guide, B591 (Ohio State University) 5.7 MB file https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/mw_home_fruit_productn_b591.pdf
- Peach Cultivar Performance, HO-6 (University of Kentucky) <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/ho/ho6/ho6.pdf>
- Plant Pathology Extension Publications (University of Kentucky) <https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/extension/publications>



BROWN ROT (LEFT), GREEN JUNE BUGS (CENTER) AND HEALTHY PEACH FRUIT (RIGHT)

Growth Stage ¹	Target Organism(s)	Pesticide(s) ²	Comments
Dormant (late fall to early spring before bud swell)	Black knot of plum, Peach leaf curl	chlorothalonil	This is the only time that a fungicide spray will control peach leaf curl and plum pockets.
Bud swell	Aphids, European red mites, Scale insect	[oil]	Application is not required if these pests have not been a problem previously. Do not spray oil when temperature is below 40°F or likely to drop below 40°F within 24 hours.
Pink (just before buds open)	Black knot of plum	Captan or chlorothalonil	Fungicide is required on plums only if black knot is a problem. For black knot control, fungicides will not be effective unless all knots are removed from tree and destroyed. Infections on nearby trees must also be eradicated.
	Catfacing insects (Plant bugs & Stink bugs)	Permethrin or [Pyrethrum] or Sevin	Permethrin and Pyrethrum are for use only on peaches.
Bloom	none	none	Fungicide should not be required during bloom if good sanitation is used to control brown rot. To protect bees, do not use insecticide during bloom.
Petal fall (last petals are falling)	Brown rot, Cherry leaf spot, Scab	Captan or chlorothalonil	
	Oriental fruit moth, Plant bugs, Plum curculio, Stink bugs	Permethrin or [Pyrethrum]	Permethrin and Pyrethrum are for use only on peaches.
Shuck split (most shucks have split apart)	Brown rot, Black knot of plum, Cherry leaf spot, Scab	Captan or chlorothalonil	Do not apply chlorothalonil after shuck split.
First cover (7 days after shuck split)	Brown rot, Cherry leaf spot, Scab	Captan	
	Oriental fruit moth, Plant bugs, Plum curculio, Stink bugs	permethrin or [Pyrethrum] or spinosad	Permethrin and Pyrethrum are for use only on peaches. Spinosad will not control plant bugs or stink bugs.
Remaining covers (10-14 day intervals)	Brown rot, Black knot of plum, Cherry leaf spot, Scab	Captan	Use shorter interval if wet, rainy weather persists.
	Oriental fruit moth, Plant bugs, Plum curculio, Stink bugs, Japanese beetle.	permethrin or [Pyrethrum] or spinosad	Permethrin and Pyrethrum are for use only on peaches. After this spray, no further spray needed.
Preharvest (3-4 weeks before)	Brown rot, Cherry leaf spot, Scab	Captan	

¹ Refer to *Disease and Insect Control Programs for Homegrown Fruit in Kentucky*, ID-21, for pictures of floral stages.

² Insecticides and fungicides can be mixed in the same tank and sprayed together.

³ Materials in [brackets] are approved for organic production.

⁴ Check pesticide labels for the Pre-Harvest Interval (PHI).

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Photos: Molly Giesbrecht, Texas A&M Extension Service, Bugwood.org (left) and John Strang, UK (middle & right)

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