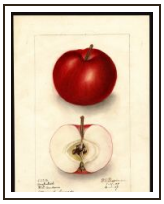
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Apple and Pear Tree Care Calendar



Typical months in zones 4, 6 and 9: zones 4 and 6 worked out from frost dates at a representative location; zone 9 from warm-region extension month rules. Shift them by your local frost dates and by what your trees are doing.

The jobs particular to apple and pear trees; the zone calendars add the care every fruit tree needs. Zone 9 comes from warm-region guides, which list fewer and different jobs for these trees than the guides behind the cooler zones, so many rows run in one or the other. A dash means no source on this sheet gives the job for that zone.

	Job	Zone 4	Zone 6	Zone 9
☐	Remove fire blight cankers while dormant	Feb–Mar	Feb–Mar	—
☐	Prune in late winter, before bloom	Mar–May	Feb–Apr	Dec–Feb
☐	Train young trees to a central leader Young trees	Mar	Feb–Mar	—
☐	Cut off root suckers and water sprouts Apples	Mar	Feb–Mar	—
☐	Head back the new tree at planting New trees	Apr	Mar	Dec–Feb
☐	Remove first-year stakes, except on dwarf apples Apples · Young trees	Apr–May	Mar–May	—
☐	Dormant oil window, if mites or scale were a problem † Bearing trees	Apr	Mar	—
☐	Spread young branches just after bud break Apples · Young trees	Apr–May	Apr–May	—
☐	Apple scab window, green tip to petal fall † Apples · Bearing trees	Apr–May	Apr–May	—
☐	Scout for pests as buds turn pink Apples · Bearing trees	May	Apr	—
☐	Hang codling moth traps by first bloom Bearing trees	May	Apr	—
☐	Check trunk bases for borers Apples	May	May	—
☐	Plum curculio window opens at petal fall † Apples · Bearing trees	May–Jun	May	—
☐	Cut out fire blight strikes promptly	May–Jun	May–Jun	—
☐	Thin heavy pear crops early Pears · Bearing trees	May–Jun	May	—
☐	Bag apples against apple maggot after thinning Apples · Bearing trees	Jun	—	—
☐	Thin apples to one per cluster Apples · Bearing trees	Jun	May–Jun	—
☐	Pinch out shoots competing with the leader Apples · Young trees	Jun–Jul	May–Jun	—
☐	Rub off water sprouts in early summer Apples · Bearing trees	Jun–Jul	Jun–Jul	—
☐	Hang red sphere traps for apple maggot Apples · Bearing trees	Jun	Jun	—
☐	Pick apples as the ground color turns Apples · Bearing trees	Sep–Nov	Aug–Oct	—
☐	Pick European pears mature but unripe Pears · Bearing trees	Sep–Oct	Aug–Sep	—
☐	Chill the harvest quickly and keep it humid Bearing trees	Sep–Nov	Aug–Oct	—
☐	Rake up fallen leaves and fruit Apples	Nov–Dec	Nov–Dec	—
☐	Thin apples just after the June drop Apples · Bearing trees	—	—	Jun
☐	Pick low-chill apples by taste Apples · Bearing trees	—	—	Jun
☐	Pick pears as each kind ripens Pears · Bearing trees	—	—	Jun–Sep

† Timing only. Follow your state or provincial extension's home-orchard spray guide and the product label.

Sources: University of Minnesota; Utah State University Extension; Virginia Cooperative Extension and 13 more (full list at the web address on the left)

Data as of 15 Nov 2026