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August Orchard Checklist

The August jobs for your fruit trees, by climate band. Months are typical for each band: let your local frost dates and your trees have the final say.

Cold zones 3–5

- ☐ Skip feeding and pruning in late summer
  Late summer
- ☐ Pick apples as the ground color turns
  About 100 to 180 days after bloom, by variety · Apples · Bearing trees · Zone 5 only
- ☐ Pick European pears mature but unripe
  About 100 to 150 days after bloom, by variety · Pears · Bearing trees · Zone 5 only
- ☐ Chill the harvest quickly and keep it humid
  Through harvest · Apples, pears · Bearing trees · Zone 5 only
- ☐ Pick peaches when flesh yields to thumb pressure
  End of July to late September in Maine · continues
- ☐ Pick plums as they soften
  Late July through October in Maine · continues
- ☐ Pick apricots as they soften and color
  Late July to mid-August in Minnesota · continues

Middle zones 6–7

- ☐ Pick figs when necks wilt and fruit droops
  Mid-August through frost · Figs · Bearing trees · Zone 7 only
- ☐ Watch ripening figs for souring
  As figs ripen · Figs · Bearing trees · Zone 7 only
- ☐ Skip feeding and pruning in late summer
  Late summer · Zone 6 only
- ☐ Pick apples as the ground color turns
  About 100 to 180 days after bloom, by variety · Apples · Bearing trees
- ☐ Pick European pears mature but unripe
  About 100 to 150 days after bloom, by variety · Pears · Bearing trees
- ☐ Chill the harvest quickly and keep it humid
  Through harvest · Apples, pears · Bearing trees
- ☐ Pick peaches when flesh yields to thumb pressure
  End of July to late September in Maine · continues
- ☐ Pick plums as they soften
  Late July through October in Maine · continues

Warm zones 8–10

- ☐ Check your region's advice before fall feeding
  Late summer to fall · Citrus · Bearing trees · Zones 9, 10
- ☐ Skip pruning from late summer into winter
  Late summer through January · Citrus · Zones 9, 10
- ☐ Pick figs when necks wilt and fruit droops
  Mid-August through frost · Figs · Bearing trees · Zone 8 only
- ☐ Watch ripening figs for souring
  As figs ripen · Figs · Bearing trees · Zone 8 only
- ☐ Pick persimmons by type as they color
  August to December, by variety · Persimmons · Bearing trees · Zone 9 only
- ☐ Keep watering even to prevent fruit splitting
  Late summer to early fall, as fruit matures · Pomegranates · Bearing trees
- ☐ Skip nitrogen in late summer and early fall
  Late summer to early fall · Pomegranates
- ☐ Pick pomegranates that ring when tapped
  Late August to early November, by variety · Pomegranates · Bearing trees · Zone 8 only
- ☐ Check figs daily and pick before rain
  July to October · continues
- ☐ Pick apples as the ground color turns
  About 100 to 180 days after bloom, by variety · continues
- ☐ Pick European pears mature but unripe
  About 100 to 150 days after bloom, by variety · continues

Notes

Sources: University of Minnesota; University of Saskatchewan; Virginia Cooperative Extension and 11 more (full list at the web address on the left)

Data as of 15 Nov 2026