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# October Orchard Checklist

The October 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

- ☐ Wrap young trunks against winter sunscald
  Fall, before freezing weather · Young trees · Zone 3 only
- ☐ Remove mummies, fallen fruit and dead twigs
  After harvest, through leaf fall · Stone fruit and cherries · Bearing trees · Zones 4, 5
- ☐ Order trees for spring planting
  Fall and early winter, before planting season · New trees
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Chill the harvest quickly and keep it humid
  Through harvest · continues

## Middle zones 6–7

- ☐ Order trees for spring planting
  Fall and early winter, before planting season · New trees
- ☐ Plant container trees, ideally in fall
  Fall is best; any time of year works · New trees · Zone 7 only
- ☐ Pick persimmons by type, before hard frost
  Fall, around the first frost · Persimmons · Bearing trees · Zone 7 only
- ☐ Remove mummies, fallen fruit and dead twigs
  After harvest, through leaf fall · Stone fruit and cherries · Bearing trees · Zone 6 only
- ☐ Test the planting site's soil
  Fall, before the ground freezes · New trees
- ☐ Pick figs when necks wilt and fruit droops
  Mid-August through frost · continues
- ☐ Pick apples as the ground color turns
  About 100 to 180 days after bloom, by variety · continues
- ☐ Chill the harvest quickly and keep it humid
  Through harvest · continues

## Warm zones 8–10

- ☐ Keep weeds off citrus roots; clear before freezes
  Late fall, before winter · Citrus · Zones 9, 10
- ☐ Prune figs lightly, at your region's time
  Fall (Arizona) or winter to early March (Louisiana) · Figs · Zone 9 only
- ☐ Test the planting site's soil
  Fall, before the ground freezes · New trees · Zone 8 only
- ☐ Plant container trees, ideally in fall
  Fall is best; any time of year works · New trees · Zone 8 only
- ☐ Pick persimmons by type, before hard frost
  Fall, around the first frost · Persimmons · Bearing trees · Zone 8 only
- ☐ Paint bark white where frost damages it
  Fall, before full dormancy · Pomegranates · Zone 8 only
- ☐ Pick figs when necks wilt and fruit droops
  Mid-August through frost · continues
- ☐ Check figs daily and pick before rain
  July to October · continues
- ☐ Pick persimmons by type as they color
  August to December, by variety · continues

## Notes



Sources: University of Saskatchewan; North Dakota State University Extension; University of Minnesota and 14 more (full list at the web address on the left)

Data as of 15 Nov 2026