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Plum and Apricot Tree Care Calendar



Typical months in zones 5, 7 and 9: zones 5 and 7 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 plum and apricot 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 5	Zone 7	Zone 9
☐	Prune out black knot galls in late winter Plums	Feb–Mar	Jan–Feb	—
☐	Prune stone fruit in late winter, near bloom	Mar–May	Feb–Apr	Dec–Feb
☐	Dormant oil window, if San Jose scale is a problem † Apricots	Apr	Mar	—
☐	Cut back new stone fruit trees at planting New trees	Apr	Feb–Mar	Dec–Feb
☐	Choose scaffold branches during the first summer Young trees	May–Jul	Apr–Jun	—
☐	Watch for plum curculio after petal fall Bearing trees	May–Jun	Apr–May	—
☐	Cut root suckers to the ground	Jun–Jul	—	—
☐	Net trees against birds as fruit ripens Bearing trees	Jun–Aug	—	—
☐	Thin apricots to 4 to 6 inches Apricots · Bearing trees	Jun	May	—
☐	Thin heavy plum crops to 3–4 inches Plums · Bearing trees	Jun–Jul	—	—
☐	Pick plums as they soften Plums · Bearing trees	Jul–Oct	—	Florida: Apr–May
☐	Pick apricots as they soften and color Apricots · Bearing trees	Jul–Aug	—	—
☐	Remove mummies, fallen fruit and dead twigs Bearing trees	Oct–Nov	Nov–Dec	—
☐	Pick plums as they soften, July to August Plums · Bearing trees	—	Jul–Aug	—
☐	Pick apricots slightly soft, July to August Apricots · Bearing trees	—	Jul–Aug	—
☐	Prune plums again after harvest Plums · Bearing trees	—	—	May–Aug
☐	Pick apricots slightly soft, late May to June Apricots · Bearing trees	—	—	May–Jun

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

Sources: Virginia Cooperative Extension; Clemson Cooperative Extension; University of Minnesota and 10 more (full list at the web address on the left)

Data as of 15 Nov 2026