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# September Orchard Checklist

The September 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

- ☐ Order trees for spring planting
  Fall and early winter, before planting season · New trees · Zone 3 only
- ☐ Test the planting site's soil
  Fall, before the ground freezes · New trees
- ☐ 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 · Zones 4, 5
- ☐ 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

## Middle zones 6–7

- ☐ Skip late-summer feeding that pushes tender growth
  Late summer · Figs · Zone 7 only
- ☐ Test the planting site's soil
  Fall, before the ground freezes · New trees · Zone 6 only
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Pick European pears mature but unripe
  About 100 to 150 days after bloom, by variety · continues

## Warm zones 8–10

- ☐ Skip late-summer feeding that pushes tender growth
  Late summer · Figs · 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 Minnesota; Virginia Cooperative Extension; University of Maine Cooperative Extension and 5 more (full list at the web address on the left)

Data as of 15 Nov 2026