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Zone 9 Fruit Tree Care Calendar

Months are typical for zone 9, taken from warm-region extension guides (Florida, Texas, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Arizona). Shift them by what your trees are doing.

For apples, pears, peaches, nectarines, plums, sweet cherries, tart cherries, apricots, figs, persimmons, pomegranates and citrus. No extension source gives picking dates here for sweet cherries and tart cherries. Check off each job as you do it; small print under a month lists short jobs still running from earlier.

All season, once started

CITRUS

Skip pruning from late summer into winter (Aug–Jan)
Harvest citrus from fall into winter (Nov–Mar)
Cover small citrus trees before a freeze (Dec–Feb)
Build a soil bank around young trunks (Dec–Feb)
Move potted citrus to shelter during freezes (Dec–Feb)
Feed young citrus lightly and often (Feb–Oct)
Check new leaf flushes for citrus psyllids (Mar–Nov)
Expect heavy fruit drop after bloom (Mar–Jun)
Water citrus deeply, not daily, in summer (Apr–Sep)
Leave leafminer-curled leaves on the tree (Jun–Oct)

FIGS

Prune figs lightly, at your region's time (Oct–Mar)
Water and mulch figs through the fruiting season (Jul–Oct)
Check figs daily and pick before rain (Jul–Oct)
Watch ripening figs for souring (Jul–Oct)

STONE FRUIT AND CHERRIES, APPLES, PEARS, FIGS, PERSIMMONS, POMEGRANATES

Keep a weed-free, mulched circle around trees (Dec–Mar)
Paint trunks white against sunburn (Dec–Mar)
Water young trees weekly once growth starts (Mar–Sep)

APPLES, PEARS, PEACHES, NECTARINES, PLUMS

Feed established trees at bud break (Feb–May)
Feed young trees once new growth shows (Mar–Jun)

PERSIMMONS

Check trunks for persimmon borer (Mar–Jun)
Pick persimmons by type as they color (Aug–Dec)

PEACHES, NECTARINES, PLUMS

Prune peaches and plums again after harvest (May–Aug)

PEARS

Pick pears as each kind ripens (Jun–Sep)

POMEGRANATES

Pick pomegranates that ring when tapped (Jul–Nov)

January

11 JOBS

- ☐ Choose cold-hardy citrus where freezes are common — Citrus · New trees
- ☐ Feed established citrus just before bloom — Citrus · Bearing trees
- ☐ Prune pomegranates lightly in late winter — Pomegranates
- ☐ Choose trunks while the plant is young — Pomegranates · Young trees

Still going: Pick ripe fruit ahead of a hard freeze; Plant bare-root figs December to February; Prune persimmons lightly in winter; Train young persimmons to a modified leader; Plant dormant fruit trees in winter; Head back new trees to knee height; Prune dormant fruit trees in winter

February

15 JOBS

- ☐ Feed young citrus lightly and often — Citrus · Young trees
- ☐ Prune citrus lightly in spring — Citrus
- ☐ Feed established trees at bud break — Apples, pears, peaches, nectarines, plums · Bearing trees
- ☐ Thin peaches and nectarines before pits harden — Peaches, nectarines · Bearing trees · Florida

Still going: Choose cold-hardy citrus where freezes are common; Feed established citrus just before bloom; Prune pomegranates lightly in late winter; Choose trunks while the plant is young; Pick ripe fruit ahead of a hard freeze; Plant bare-root figs December to February; Prune persimmons lightly in winter; Train young persimmons to a modified leader; Plant dormant fruit trees in winter; Head back new trees to knee height; Prune dormant fruit trees in winter

March

12 JOBS

- ☐ Plant citrus in spring after frost danger — Citrus · New trees
- ☐ Water new citrus trees often at first — Citrus · New trees
- ☐ Check new leaf flushes for citrus psyllids — Citrus
- ☐ Expect heavy fruit drop after bloom — Citrus · Bearing trees
- ☐ Check trunks for persimmon borer — Persimmons
- ☐ Water young trees weekly once growth starts — Stone fruit and cherries, apples, pears, figs, persimmons, pomegranates · Young trees
- ☐ Feed young trees once new growth shows — Apples, pears, peaches, nectarines, plums · Young trees
- ☐ Pick peaches and nectarines firm ripe — Peaches, nectarines · Bearing trees · Florida and Arizona

Still going: Choose cold-hardy citrus where freezes are common; Feed established citrus just before bloom; Prune citrus lightly in spring; Thin peaches and nectarines before pits harden

April

7 JOBS

- ☐ Water at the ground, not overhead, in bloom — Pomegranates · Bearing trees
- ☐ Pick plums as they start to soften — Plums · Bearing trees · Florida
- ☐ Water citrus deeply, not daily, in summer — Citrus

Still going: Prune citrus lightly in spring; Plant citrus in spring after frost danger; Water new citrus trees often at first; Pick peaches and nectarines firm ripe

May

9 JOBS

- ☐ Give bearing citrus a second feeding — Citrus · Bearing trees
- ☐ Prune freeze damage after spring regrowth shows — Citrus
- ☐ Prune peaches and plums again after harvest — Peaches, nectarines, plums · Bearing trees
- ☐ Expect some fruit drop after bloom — Persimmons · Bearing trees
- ☐ Pick apricots slightly soft, late May to June — Apricots · Bearing trees

Still going: Water new citrus trees often at first; Pick peaches and nectarines firm ripe; Water at the ground, not overhead, in bloom; Pick plums as they start to soften

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

Sources: Texas A&M AgriLife; LSU AgCenter; UC Agriculture and Natural Resources and 5 more (full list at the web address on the left)

Zone 9 Fruit Tree Care Calendar

June

12 JOBS

- ☐ Leave leafminer-curled leaves on the tree — Citrus
- ☐ Thin heavy persimmon crops to 6 inches — Persimmons · Bearing trees
- ☐ Water deeply through the summer peak — Stone fruit and cherries, apples, pears, figs, persimmons, pomegranates
- ☐ Thin apples just after the June drop — Apples · Bearing trees
- ☐ Pick low-chill apples by taste — Apples · Bearing trees
- ☐ Pick pears as each kind ripens — Pears · Bearing trees
- ☐ Remove unwanted suckers in mid-summer — Pomegranates

Still going: Water at the ground, not overhead, in bloom; Give bearing citrus a second feeding; Prune freeze damage after spring regrowth shows; Expect some fruit drop after bloom; Pick apricots slightly soft, late May to June

July

10 JOBS

- ☐ Water and mulch figs through the fruiting season — Figs
- ☐ Pick brebas before the main crop — Figs · Bearing trees
- ☐ Check figs daily and pick before rain — Figs · Bearing trees
- ☐ Watch ripening figs for souring — Figs · Bearing trees
- ☐ Rake up rust-spotted fig leaves — Figs
- ☐ Pick pomegranates that ring when tapped — Pomegranates · Bearing trees

Still going: Expect some fruit drop after bloom; Thin heavy persimmon crops to 6 inches; Water deeply through the summer peak; Remove unwanted suckers in mid-summer

August

8 JOBS

- ☐ Pick persimmons by type as they color — Persimmons · Bearing trees
- ☐ Keep watering even to prevent fruit splitting — Pomegranates · Bearing trees
- ☐ Skip nitrogen in late summer and early fall — Pomegranates
- ☐ Check your region's advice before fall feeding — Citrus · Bearing trees
- ☐ Skip pruning from late summer into winter — Citrus

Still going: Water deeply through the summer peak; Remove unwanted suckers in mid-summer; Rake up rust-spotted fig leaves

September

7 JOBS

- ☐ Pick pears as each kind ripens — continues
- ☐ Check figs daily and pick before rain — continues
- ☐ Pick pomegranates that ring when tapped — continues

Still going: Rake up rust-spotted fig leaves; Keep watering even to prevent fruit splitting; Skip nitrogen in late summer and early fall; Check your region's advice before fall feeding

October

5 JOBS

- ☐ Prune figs lightly, at your region's time — Figs
- ☐ Keep weeds off citrus roots; clear before freezes — Citrus

Still going: Keep watering even to prevent fruit splitting; Skip nitrogen in late summer and early fall; Check your region's advice before fall feeding

November

3 JOBS

- ☐ Harvest citrus from fall into winter — Citrus · Bearing trees
- ☐ Peach leaf curl treatment window after leaf fall † — Peaches, nectarines

Still going: Keep weeds off citrus roots; clear before freezes

December

13 JOBS

- ☐ Cover small citrus trees before a freeze — Citrus
- ☐ Build a soil bank around young trunks — Citrus · Young trees
- ☐ Move potted citrus to shelter during freezes — Citrus
- ☐ Pick ripe fruit ahead of a hard freeze — Citrus · Bearing trees
- ☐ Plant bare-root figs December to February — Figs · New trees
- ☐ Prune persimmons lightly in winter — Persimmons · Bearing trees
- ☐ Train young persimmons to a modified leader — Persimmons · Young trees
- ☐ Plant dormant fruit trees in winter — Stone fruit and cherries, apples, pears, persimmons, pomegranates · New trees
- ☐ Head back new trees to knee height — Stone fruit, apples, pears · New trees
- ☐ Keep a weed-free, mulched circle around trees — Stone fruit and cherries, apples, pears, figs, persimmons, pomegranates · Young trees
- ☐ Prune dormant fruit trees in winter — Apples, pears, peaches, nectarines, plums
- ☐ Paint trunks white against sunburn — Stone fruit and cherries, apples, pears, figs, persimmons, pomegranates

Still going: Peach leaf curl treatment window after leaf fall

Notes

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

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