



Cultural Calendar for Commercial Peach Production

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Integrated pest management (IPM) includes the combination of biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools in efforts to manage diseases and pests while minimizing risks associated with pesticides. Cultural practices are an integral part of an IPM program and should be incorporated into all commercial systems whether large or small, conventional or organic. This publication provides recommended practices at approximate growth stages and/or production periods. However, these timelines are approximate and may require adjustment for particular conditions. Growers who encounter situations that may not align with suggestions here should contact their county Extension office for assistance. Extension offices can also provide updated pest management recommendations. This cultural guide serves as a supplement to published spray guides and scouting guides.



PINK



BLOOM



SHUCK SPLIT



HARVEST

	TIME OF YEAR [~]	February/ Early-March	Mid/Late March	Late March/Mid- April	Mid-April/May	Late May	June/July	August/ September	October/ November
	GROWTH STAGE	Dormant ¹	Bud swell ²	Pink ³	Petal fall ⁴	Shuck split ⁵	Summer growth/ Harvest	Late summer/fall growth	After harvest
Diseases	Bacterial spot	Prune cankers and dead, dying, and diseased wood; Prune to allow for increased air movement and thorough spray coverage.			Use windbreaks to minimize fruit damage caused by blowing sand and driving rain.				Plant resistant cultivars; Plant windbreaks; Rake and remove fallen leaves (small orchards).
	Black knot	Prune cankers and dead, dying, and diseased wood; Prune to allow for increased air movement and thorough spray coverage.		Remove newly formed knots; Gather and destroy prunings.					Prune cankers and dead, dying, and diseased wood; Gather and destroy pruned knots.
	Brown rot	Prune cankers and dead, dying, and diseased wood; Prune to allow for increased air movement and thorough spray coverage.		Remove fruit mummies; Remove wild <i>Prunus</i> species.		Remove diseased fruit; Thin to one undamaged fruit per 6 to 8 inches of limb; Bag developing peach and nectarine fruit when 1/2 inch in diameter (for small orchards).	Remove diseased fruit; Gather and dispose of fallen fruit.	Remove diseased fruit; Remove fruit bags 10 days to 2 weeks before harvest (for small orchards).	Prune cankers and dead, dying, and diseased wood; Remove mummies; Rake fallen leaves and destroy.

NOTES:

[~]THE GROWTH STAGE INDICATED TYPICALLY OCCURS DURING THIS TIME OF YEAR; HOWEVER, THIS MAY VARY FROM YEAR TO YEAR DEPENDING ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS.

¹ BEFORE BUDS SWELL

² BUDS ARE SWOLLEN BUT NOT OPEN

³ JUST BEFORE BLOOMS OPEN

⁴ PETALS READILY FALL FROM FLOWERS

⁵ EXPANDING FRUIT CAUSES FLOWER SHUCK TO SPLIT

	TIME OF YEAR~	February/ Early-March	Mid/Late March	Late March/Mid- April	Mid-April/May	Late May	June/July	August/ September	October/ November
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Diseases	Canker (bacterial canker & perennial canker)		Delay pruning until growth begins in spring for more rapid callus development; Prune cankers; Remove and destroy dead, dying, and diseased tissue; Remove all cuttings from orchard; Avoid unnecessary injury during pruning.					Irrigate trees during dry weather.	Prune cankers and dead, dying, and diseased wood; Remove all cuttings from orchard.
	Cherry leaf spot				Remove infected leaves and diseased twigs and fruit.	Rake and remove fallen leaves (small orchards).	Rake and remove fallen leaves (small orchards).		Rake and remove fallen leaves (small orchards).
	Peach leaf curl	Prune to allow for increased air movement and thorough spray coverage.		Manage peachtree and lesser peachtree borers.	Manage peachtree and lesser peachtree borers.	Manage peachtree and lesser peachtree borers.	Rake and remove fallen leaves (small orchards).		Plant resistant cultivars; Rake and remove fallen leaves (small orchards).
	Scab	Prune to allow for increased air movement and thorough spray coverage.			Remove infected twigs and shoots.	Bag developing peach and nectarine fruit when 1/2 inch in diameter (for small orchards).	Remove infected leaves and diseased fruit; Gather and dispose of fallen fruit.	Remove infected leaves and diseased fruit; Remove fruit bags 10 days to 2 weeks before harvest (for small orchards).	Prune cankers and dead, dying, and diseased wood.

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Insects & Mites*	Insects & Mites (general)	Prune cankers and dead, dying, and diseased wood; Prune to allow for increased air movement and thorough spray coverage.		Scout to monitor populations; Mow/manage weeds.	Mow/manage weeds.	Remove damaged fruit; Mow/manage weeds; Bag developing peach and nectarine fruit when 1/2 inch in diameter (for small orchards).	Remove any infested fruit from trees or the ground; Gather and dispose of fallen fruit; Mow/manage weeds.	Remove any infested fruit from trees or the ground; Gather and dispose of fallen fruit; Mow/manage weeds; Remove fruit bags 10 days to 2 weeks before harvest (for small orchards).	
	Borers & Boring insects			Monitor populations using pheromone traps in orchard; Place traps in orchard.	Change pheromone lures monthly.	Change pheromone lures monthly.			
	Catfacing insects (plant bugs & stink bugs)					Bag developing peach and nectarine fruit when 1/2 inch in diameter (for small orchards).		Remove infested leaves and diseased fruit; Remove fruit bags 10 days to 2 weeks before harvest (for small orchards).	

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Insects & Mites*	Oriental fruit moth			Monitor populations using pheromone traps in orchard; Place traps in orchard.	Change pheromone lures monthly.	Change pheromone lures monthly; Thin to one undamaged fruit per 6 to 8 inches of limb; Bag developing peach and nectarine fruit when 1/2 inch in diameter (for small orchards).	Remove infested leaves and fruit; Gather and dispose of fallen fruit; Change pheromone lures monthly.	Remove infested leaves and fruit; Gather and dispose of fallen fruit; Change pheromone lures monthly; Remove fruit bags 10 days to 2 weeks before harvest (for small orchards).	
	Scale	Prune to allow for thorough spray coverage; Monitor scale populations while pruning.			Use black tape wrapped around infested limbs to monitor for scale crawler emergence.			Monitor scale populations during harvest.	
	Peachtree & Lesser peachtree borers			Monitor populations using pheromone traps; Place traps in orchard.	Change pheromone lures monthl.	Change lures monthly.		Monitor for presence of borers.	

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Insects*	Plum curculio					Remove fruit with crescent shaped scars; Monitor activity; Thin to one undamaged fruit per 6 to 8 inches of limb.	Remove infested fruit from trees; Gather and dispose of fallen fruit.	Remove any infested fruit from trees or the ground; Gather and dispose of fallen fruit.	
Weeds	Broad leaf & Grass weeds			Mow before trees bloom to eliminate weed blooms that compete for pollinators.	Mow as needed.	Mow as needed.	Mow as needed.	Mow as needed.	
Wildlife	Raccoons, Deer, Voles & Rabbits	Check and repair wildlife enclosures; Monitor for scat or tracks.		Mow to reduce rodent and rabbit habitat.			Check and repair wildlife enclosures.	Mow as needed; Trap or protect orchard with electric fencing when large numbers of raccoons are present (for small orchards).	Install raptor perches; Protect predators like coyotes; Check and repair wildlife enclosures; Scout for voles; Encourage hunting and trapping for deer and raccoons on and around property.

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Abiotic	Plant health	Apply half nitrogen fertilizer; Prune dead and dying wood; Prune to allow for increased air movement and thorough spray coverage; Plant healthy, disease-free trees.	Prune cankers and dead, dying, and diseased wood; Prune to allow for increased air movement and thorough spray coverage; Assess winter injury and prune to reduce damage.	Apply second half of nitrogen fertilizer; Thin fruit, thinning early maturing varieties first.	Thin fruit.	Irrigate as needed.	Collect tissue samples for nutrient analysis (mid-July to mid-August); Soil test; Irrigate during the period three weeks before harvest, if needed, for fruit sizing.	Collect tissue samples for nutrient analysis; Soil test.	Paint lower trunks of young trees with latex paint to prevent sunscald; Plant healthy and disease-free trees.

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Editor: Cheryl Kaiser, Extension Plant Pathology Support

Photos: John Strang University of Kentucky (pink, bloom, harvest); John Hartman, University of Kentucky (shuck split)