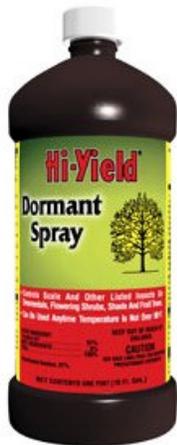




# Dormant Sprays



**Purpose:** Prevent insect and disease infestations.

**Apply to:** Deciduous fruit and shade trees.

**Timing:** Late March through late April

Prevention is the key to success when controlling insects and diseases. Dormant sprays are applied to the bare limbs and trunks of dormant plants, usually in early spring to clean up existing infections of certain diseases and insects.

Dormant oil sprays are designed to eliminate insects that overwinter as eggs (mostly aphids), or as nymphs/adults (mostly scale). Dormant oil sprays have two key advantages over chemical pesticides. First, they are less expensive, and second, beneficial insects and pollinators are not affected.

**The ideal time to apply a dormant spray is after the buds of trees have started to swell, and up to the point where leaves have begun to emerge.** This is called delayed-dormant timing. Waiting for this timing rather than when buds are completely dormant is beneficial because eggs and overwintering adults become more "active" and susceptible to treatment. The exception to spraying only at delayed dormant is pear psylla (pear slugs), which would require one spray during dormancy (just before buds swell) and a second spray 2 weeks later.

When applying dormant or delayed dormant sprays, make sure you thoroughly cover all bark cracks and crevices. Also, oils should be used when the air temperature is above 40 F and when there is no threat of freezing temperature for the following 36 hours. Applying between 50 and 70 F on clear days is ideal.

Dormant and delayed dormant sprays can be effective against the following insects.

**Aphids-** horticultural oil alone at delayed-dormant timing; repeat if infestations were high last year.

**Blister Mites-** these mites cause tiny galls on the leaves of apple or pear. Apply oil, or oil with **Carbaryl** at dormant or delayed dormant timing.

**Brown Mites-** oil alone at delayed-dormant timing should be sufficient.

**Peach Twig Borer-** Delayed dormant spray of horticultural oil plus **Spinosad** targets overwintering larvae as they emerge to find food; this is a very important spray for managing peach twig borer.

**Pear Psylla-** Use horticultural oil alone; apply two applications starting at dormant timing

**San Jose Scale-** Apply horticultural oil at dormant or delayed-dormant timing.

**Soft Scales:** Horticultural oil is very effective on soft scales, particularly at delayed-dormant timing when temperatures have started to increase.

**Shothole (coryneum blight)-** Apply **Daconil** at delayed-dormancy on cherries and peaches.

**Fire Blight- Copper spray** at silver tip stage (late dormant timing) and when temperatures are above 45°. Do not apply copper after 1/4-inch green leaf stage or when drying conditions are slow, as severe injury can occur. Do not combine copper sulfate alone with dormant oil.

**Note:** Always be sure to read and follow label directions

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