

Table 12. Cultural and mechanical practices for disease and insect control on stone fruit, and the time of year to conduct them.

Time of year for conducting various cultural control practices	Problem targeted
WHEN ESTABLISHING A PLANTING	
Choose a well-drained sunny location. If the only site available is wet, then improve soil drainage by ditching and tilling. Plant only in open area with direct sun light all day. all other diseases.	Drainage for Phytophthora root rot. Direct sun light for
Buy nursery stock only from reputable growers; inspect all purchases for galls, cankers, or rotted roots.	Crown gall, Phytophthora root rot.
Remove wild plums and wild cherries near plum plantings.	Black knot
DURING LATE WINTER OR EARLY SPRING	
Prune healthy growth to improve air movement and sunlight penetration in the canopy. This will reduce wetness and shading in the canopy. Delay pruning until March or April.	Brown rot and most other diseases.
Remove cankers on shoots or limbs.	Cytospora canker
On plums, prune out and destroy branches with black knot (rough, black tumors or overgrowths that develop on shoots and limbs)	Black knot
Kill borer larvae mechanically by inserting a wire or knife into holes where fresh sawdust is found	Peachtree borer & lesser peachtree borer
DURING SPRING AND SUMMER	
Keep nearby ground cover and weeds mowed, especially before, during, and right after bloom.	Tarnished plant bug, stink bugs
Set out a pheromone trap for Oriental fruit moth at bloom; monitor the trap to determine when the adult (moth) stage of this pest is active. The best time to use insecticide is 200 degree-days (base 45F) after moth flight begins and again 200 degree-days later.	Oriental fruit moth
Prune flagging (wilted) shoots as soon as they are noticed.	Oriental fruit moth
Remove and destroy fruit with insect entry or exit holes or with symptoms of brown rot.	Oriental fruit moth, plum curculio, brown rot
Collect and destroy prematurely fallen fruit.	Brown rot, oriental fruit moth, plum curculio
Pull off excess fruit in early summer to prevent limb breakage from excess crop load. Borers are attracted to broken limbs.	Lesser peachtree borer
Repair any damaged limbs immediately.	Cytospora canker
If watering is needed during dry periods, irrigate the soil around trees rather than using overhead sprinklers.	Most diseases
Pick fruit as they ripen; remove any fallen or decaying fruit.	Brown rot, yellowjackets, wasps
Do not allow fruit to over-ripen or soften before harvest.	Brown rot
DURING FALL OR WINTER	
Collect and destroy all mummified fruit beneath trees and hanging in trees. Rake and destroy old leaves of cherry.	Brown rot Cherry leaf spot