

Table 8. Cultural and mechanical practices for disease and insect control on apples and pears, 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 sunlight all day.	Drainage for Phytophthora root and crown rot. Direct sunlight for all other diseases.
Buy nursery stock only from reputable growers; inspect all purchases to be free of galls, cankers, or rotted roots.	Crown gall, Phytophthora root and crown rot.
Plant cultivars resistant to apple scab and other diseases (see Tables 9 & 10).	Apple scab, powdery mildew, fire blight, cedar apple rust.
If cedar apple rust is a problem in your area, do not plant apples near red cedars (junipers) if you have cultivars susceptible to cedar apple rust. Remove cedar apple rust galls from infected cedars (junipers).	Cedar apple rust
DURING WINTER — BEFORE GROWTH STARTS IN THE SPRING	
Prune out and destroy all dead or diseased shoots and limbs while trees are dormant (mid-March is usually a good time).	Fire blight, powdery mildew, summer rots
Prune healthy growth to improve air movement and sunlight penetration, to minimize shading and decrease drying time of leaves and fruit during the growing season. Minimize heavy pruning on pears.	Scab, powdery mildew, fire blight, summer rots Pear psylla
DURING SPRING AND SUMMER	
Minimize nitrogen fertilizer application.	Fire blight on apples and pears, and pear psylla
Remove cedar apple rust galls from infected cedars (junipers) early in the spring.	Cedar apple rust
Place paper bags over individual fruit when 1/2–3/4 inch diameter, which is about 3 weeks after petal-fall.	Codling moth, apple maggot, flyspeck
Remove and destroy fruit with insect entry or exit holes.	Codling moth, apple maggot
Collect and destroy prematurely fallen fruit.	Codling moth, apple maggot
Strap six-inch wide corrugated cardboard strips around tree trunk to provide site for codling moth to pupate. For first generation, place on tree in early June, remove and destroy in mid-July. For second generation, place on tree in early August, remove and destroy in Winter.	Codling moth
Hang red sticky balls to attract and kill apple maggot (adult females) before eggs are laid, from mid-June to mid-August.	Apple maggot
Remove water sprouts on pears in mid-summer.	Pear psylla
If watering is needed during dry periods, irrigate the soil around trees rather than using overhead sprinklers.	Scab, mildew, fire blight and summer rots
IN THE FALL	
Collect and destroy all leaves, including those from nearby flowering crabapples	Apple scab, pear scab, pear leaf spot
On nearby cedars (junipers), remove and destroy all galls of cedar apple rust that were missed in the spring.	Cedar apple rust