

My Fruit Tree

The codling moth is a common pest that will make your apples “wormy”. If codling moth is not managed in backyard trees, as much as 90% of the fruit can be ruined and unfit to eat.

Your Responsibility?

All property owners with apple, pear, crabapple, or quince trees (host trees) are legally responsible for controlling the codling moth on their property in the Okanagan, Similkameen and Shuswap Valleys.

Codling moths from your backyard can spread to neighbouring orchards, jeopardizing your neighbours livelihood and increasing the amount of pesticides used in your area.



OKSIR HEAD OFFICE

1450 KLO Road Kelowna
BC, V1W 3Z4

Phone: 250-469-6187

Email: sirinfo@oksir.org

Toll Free: 1-800-363-66



© 2022 Okanagan-Kootenay
Sterile Insect Release Program

The SIR program is in place
to decrease the overall
regional pesticide use
against the codling moth
and protect the agricultural
community.



Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile
Insect Release Program

How to Control Codling Moth in Your Residential Host Trees

Managing your Trees

Managing your trees for codling moth requires multiple applications of pesticides and/or labour-intensive pest management care. Apple and pear tree owners should carefully consider the costs and benefits of growing backyard trees. Host trees that will not get adequate care should be removed.

Wood from **host trees that are removed** should be burned, chipped or sent to the landfill. Moths spin cocoons under the bark and if wood is sold or moved to another location, the moth moves with it and can infest a new area. If you wish to keep the wood for personal use, you can tightly tarp it. Codling moths can hibernate for up to two years, so infested woodpiles should be tarped for at least two years.



Codling Moth Damage on Pears

The larvae penetrate into the fruit and tunnel to the core where they feed on the seeds.



Codling Moth Damage in Apples

Cutting open fruit infested with codling moth reveals the tunnel created by the burrowing larva.

An alternative for home owners who wish to avoid the codling moth pest is to plant plum, peach or apricot trees instead of apple or pear trees. These trees in general have fewer fruit damaging pests.

Spraying Information

Many domestic pesticides have been withdrawn from the market, or will be withdrawn within the next several years. Commercial pest control companies with licensed pesticide applicators have access to newer and more effective agricultural pest control products that are not available to the home gardener. Consider having your fruit trees professionally treated.

Backyard Tree Care

In most backyard situations, the best course of action is to combine a variety of the nonchemical and chemical methods of controlling the codling moth. Owners of host trees on private property in the SIR Program area must control the codling moth. You must take action if one or more moths are detected on your fruit trees.

Management can include:

- Tree size
- Tree species
- Removal of debris under your tree
- Pruning
- Thinning
- Bagging growing fruit
- Cardboard banding
- Removal of infested fruit
- Harvest
- Hard pruning

To learn more about each management technique, visit our website for more information and look under **Backyard Tree Care**.

<https://www.oksir.org/backyard-tree-care/>