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## HOW TO MAINTAIN AND CARE FOR CODLING MOTH HOST TREES

**Host trees include: apple, pear, crabapple and/or quince**

The SIR Program works to control codling moth in all apple and pear orchards, and backyard properties near them, in the Okanagan, Shuswap and Similkameen Valleys. To carry out the work, the SIR Board has authority under the B.C. Municipalities Enabling and Validating Act regarding the control of codling moth on all properties.

All homeowners are responsible for controlling codling moth infestation on their property. It is important to understand that one control method is usually not successful. It will take a **combination** of several control tactics to prevent, remove, or control codling moth.

**It is up to each individual homeowner's discretion whether to apply chemical controls themselves, hire a contract sprayer, or use manual control methods (e.g. blossom/fruit removal).**

**SPRAYING.** Codling moth sprays should be applied about 2 weeks after petal fall (usually early June) and continue until harvest. Many factors impact the success of a spray program: type of product used, residual, timing, coverage, weather, sprinklers and level of codling moth damage. A comprehensive care program may require targeted compounds for codling moth *in addition* to other beneficial sprays:

- Dormant oil after danger of frost and before bud break
- Foliar fertilizers
- Scab, mite, or aphid control

Spraying alone may NOT control codling moth infestation.

*A significant amount of damage is found in late August and September. It is essential to continue spraying and removing infested fruit until harvest. All infested fruit should be sent to the landfill or placed in a bucket of water for several days to drown the larvae.*

**\*\*\*\*\* DO NOT COMPOST YOUR FRUIT \*\*\*\*\***

For further spray information, visit our website at:  
<http://www.oksir.org/backyard-tree-care/spraying-information/>

**COMPLETE BLOSSOM AND/OR FRUIT REMOVAL** from your host tree(s) **prior to June 1st** is highly recommended to homeowners who want to keep the tree but are not interested in the fruit. Prune and open the canopy during the dormant season (Nov to March) then snip off all blossom stems that appear in early spring. Re-check your tree throughout the season and remove all missed fruit or new blossoms.

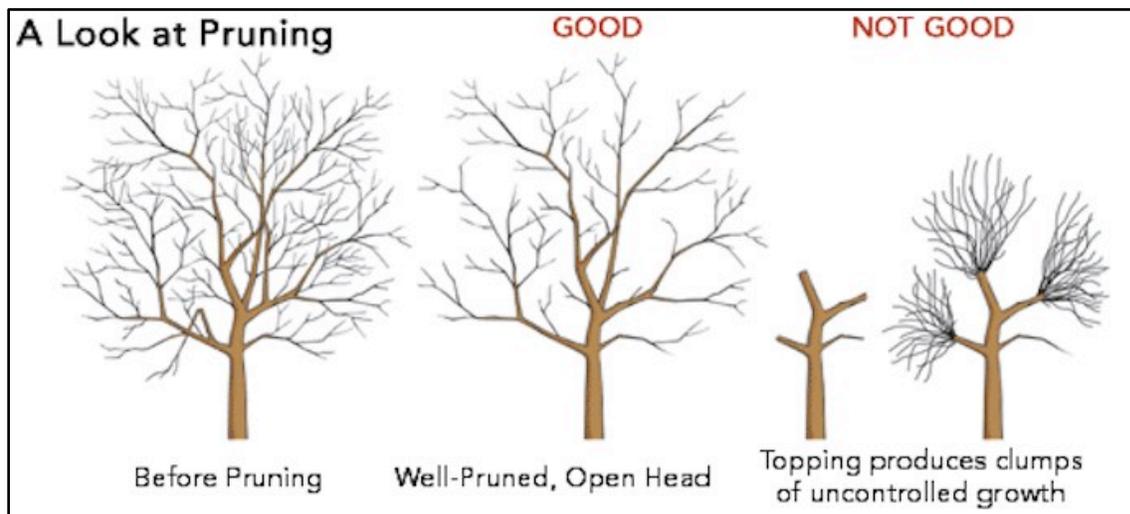


**PRUNING** is essential to maintaining a healthy tree and allows for more effective spray coverage. Fruit size, quality, and pest management are also influenced by pruning. Reducing the height of the tree will eliminate the need for a ladder. Unpruned trees become entangled masses of shoots and branches that produce poor fruit and are more likely to harbor insects and diseases.

Consider the following tips when pruning fruit crops:

1. Visualize the results. Once a branch is pruned out, it can't be replaced.
2. Use sharp pruning tools to make clean cuts.
3. Burn or take all prunings to the landfill as they provide sites for insects and diseases.
4. Remove all water shoots (ground suckers) below soil level and remove suckering shoots from the trunk at the base (**no stubs!**) to prevent regrowth.

Summer pruning is advised throughout the growing season to improve air circulation and to remove broken, diseased or injured branches, waterspouts and root suckers. Major removal of twigs and branches should be done during the dormant season, preferably before active growth begins in the spring.



**PRUNING NEGLECTED TREES.** Many people purchase a house where host trees have been neglected by the previous owners. Trees that have become bushy and weak will produce very poor quality fruit. Such trees require extensive corrective pruning. The main objective is to open up the interior to allow good light penetration. Remove all upright, vigorous growing shoots. Limbs with poor angles and excess scaffold limbs should be removed at their base. *Scraping loose bark from the trunk will also minimize pupating (cocoon spinning) locations.*



**FRUIT THINNING.** Host trees will produce more fruit than they are capable of carrying to maturity. It is essential to remove the excess fruit to assure quality development of remaining fruit on the tree. Thin your fruit clusters in early spring. By thinning fruit to one per cluster, it makes it easier to inspect for damage and spray coverage will be enhanced. Apples and pears and/or crabapple fruit should not grow like grapes. Clusters provide the perfect place for codling moth and other insects to feed on and damage your fruit. Fruit and/or blossoms should be removed by hand to one or two per cluster. Thinning while the tree is in blossom is the ideal time. If you wait until the fruit has formed the job will be much more difficult.



**\*\*Harvesting the fruit in the fall with complete cleanup will ensure that late season infestations do not occur. \*\***

**TREE REMOVAL.** Owners should carefully consider the costs and benefits of growing backyard trees and remove trees that will not get adequate care. Codling moth spin cocoons under the bark of apple, pear and/or crabapple trees. Wood from these trees should be chipped or sent to the landfill. If the wood is sold or moved to another location, the moth moves with it to infest another area.

**POTENTIAL RESOURCES** in the Kelowna area include but are not limited to the following:

- Garden Centres
  - **Art Knapp Kelowna**, 2550 Benvoulin Rd, 250-712-1321
  - **Byland's Nursery**, 1600 Byland Rd, 250-769-7272
  - **Growers Supply Co Ltd**, 2605 Acland Rd, 250-765-4500
  - **Optimize Organics**, 575 Rifle Rd, 778-932-0999
  - **The Greenery Garden Centre**, 2507 Longhill Rd, 250-762-7411
  - **Dogwood Nursery & Landscaping**, 3417 Paynter Rd, 250-768-3355
  
- Tree Service/Pesticide Applicators
  - **Green Velvet Tree & Lawn**, 250-861-4808
  - **Bartlett Tree Experts**, 250-763-6336
  - **Cody Tree Service**, 250-862-8900
  - **Olson Pest Control Ltd**, 250-765-1164
  - **A-One Tree Service Ltd**, 250-868-3855
  - **Action Tree Service**, 250-762-5922

*SIR staff will be pleased to answer any questions or concerns you have. If you know of host trees that are not being properly cared for, contact our Kelowna office at 1-800-363-6684 to have your area supervisor **notified**.*

For more information and resources, please visit our website at [www.oksir.org](http://www.oksir.org).