

# Growing Fruit Trees: Pears

## *Proper Care of Trees for Noxious Pest Avoidance*

### Important Notice:

Before planting fruit trees, it is the residential growers responsibility to familiarize oneself with the RDOS [Bylaw](#). It is necessary that proper care of fruit trees is taken to prevent & control pest infestations.

### Before Planting your Tree

Pear trees can only produce healthy fruit if home growers pay careful attention to pruning, sanitation, pest management, & harvest practices. If you are planting the tree for shade or ornamental purposes, consider planting an ornamental tree that will be less bothersome, costly to care for & manage.

### General Pear Tree Care

**Sanitation:** Diligent sanitation practice will reduce the risk of pest infestation. Remove dead & decaying fruit & leaves from the tree & ground. Maintain a good weeding and visual inspection routine to avoid pests.

**Pruning:** Avoid pruning in fall or winter to avoid winter injury, which makes the tree more susceptible to pests. In early spring (before bud break & at least two weeks after last frost) remove all dead & diseased branches first. Prune the upper part of the tree more than the lower to maximize sunlight & airflow.

**Thinning:** Pears often cause overloading due to the weight of the fruit; thinning in June will prevent this. Leave about 8 inches between fruits.

**Harvesting:** Remove ALL fruit at harvest (Aug-Sept). Make sure all diseased & insect-infested fruit is destroyed properly. Note: most pear types must be harvested while still green & left to ripen off the tree. If left until yellow, the fruit will decompose internally & attract pests.



### Pest Avoidance & Management

**Important:** Avoid chemical intervention (pesticides) & use preventative strategies first. Keeping trees healthy by prioritizing sanitation practice will help reduce pest & disease problems.

**Tree Netting & Bagging Fruit:** Net entire tree or place horticultural bags around the fruit when small & leave on for the majority of the growth process. Both of these reduces the risk of pests, disease, & damage from birds.

**Pesticides (last resort):** If preventative measures are no longer adequate, consult professionals before use. Always begin with the least toxic product available first.

**Pesticide Stewardship:** Do not apply in daytime when bees are foraging or if wind speeds are high, or when rain is forecast.

# MOST COMMON PEAR TREE PESTS

## Rust Mite & Pearleaf Blister Mite

(25mm = 1 inch)

## Codling Moth



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**Identification:** Damage is the best way to identify mites as the pest is hard to detect. Rust mites cause russeting on leaves & fruit. Pearleaf blister mites cause red or black russet spots on leaves & fruit. Fruit may be deformed.

**Management:** Avoid chemical sprays as natural predators are the best way to control mites. Pruning will remove overwintering mites. Hose mites off with water as needed.



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**Identification:** Exit holes filled with excrement are a good indication of codling moth. Mature larvae leave the fruit to pupate in protected areas. Adults are rarely seen.

**Management:** Banding the trunks with corrugated cardboard banding helps trap overwintering larvae. Pheromone traps or homemade traps can also be used. Thin fruit to singles or strip tree entirely to prevent pest.

## Apple Curculio



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**Identification:** Larvae are legless & white with a brown head. Adults are red-brown weevils with a long snout & 4 small humps on their back. They play dead if disturbed. Deformation damage includes pustules & depressions.

**Management:** Monitor with sticky traps to detect adults. Removing alternative food & breeding hosts such as cherry & saskatoon may help.

## Additional Info

### Other Pests to Look out for

Peach Tree Borers, Shothole Borers, San Jose Scale, Lecanium Scale, Pear Psylla, Lygus Bugs, Leafrollers, Aphids etc.

### More Detailed Pest Descriptions Found Here

[Home & Garden Pest Management Guide for BC Pests of Fruit Trees.](#)

### Okanagan Invasive Species Online

This is a useful resource for information on all invasive insect pests of concern in the region. This can be found at: [www.OISO.ca](http://www.OISO.ca)



### Plant Me Instead Factsheet

For ornamental & native tree or shrub alternatives for fruit bearing trees & shrubs, visit [Tree Fruit Pest Control | RDOS](#)

### Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Note

This is a very destructive pest that affects a wide range of fruits & vegetables. Send images or samples of the suspected stink bug to the BC Ministry of Agriculture or report [online](#).

*Contact your local nursery/ greenhouse if you are unsure about what management strategy should be practiced & how to properly care for your fruit tree.*

Noxious Pest Program Video Media:

[Regional District Okanagan Similkameen \(RDOS\) - YouTube](#)