

April 2017

Dear Tree Adopters,

Thank you for your support of the Curran Apple Orchard Park!

Due to serious insect/fruit issues last year, CORE adopted a comprehensive tree maintenance plan to improve tree health and fruit production. While we can't control Mother Nature, we can take steps to improve the health of our trees along with decreasing the spread of insects and disease.

Please print and save this reminder regarding YOUR tree care tasks.

Sat, April 22

Final Spring Pruning Party

10am-1pm Bring work gloves, loppers and hand pruners. Some tools available to borrow. We also need help hauling branches to the dumpster.

Sat, May 6

Insect Class & Sticky Apple Traps 9am - noon

Master Gardener Bill Horn will present a class on dealing with insects.

Bring clean ½ gallon jugs with lids. Recipes available for future use. (see attached)

10am-noon – Help hang sticky apple traps and lures to combat Maggots.

Wear old clothes.

May-early June

Apple Thinning – It is important **to thin your fruit** to encourage large, healthy fruit and prevent branch breakage. Fruit should NOT be touching. When apples are the size of a dime, gently twist off fruit **and dispose of excess fruit in the provided dumpsters. Do Not throw fruit on the ground** to prevent insects from burrowing and reappearing next Spring.

Optional:

a)Free burlap bags are available in the barn. Place burlap around the base of your tree and anchor them to the ground using plant spikes (not provided)

b)Place Nylon Footies around individual fruit after thinning to further protect them from insects.

June-September

WINDFALL PICK UP!!! This is the most important thing you can do!

Inadequate thinning and hot weather can result in trees dropping apples before they are ripe. **It is critical to remove windfalls and put them in the provided dumpsters to prevent maggots from burrowing into the rotting fruit and reinfesting trees next year. Everyone needs to do this because each tree affects surrounding trees.**

Bring containers (some 5-gallon buckets available at the barn) to take your windfalls to the dumpster.

Thank you so much for your help! Working together, we can do our best to ensure a healthy orchard in the future.