



Integrated Pest Management Program

Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
UConn Extension

Answers for All

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Fruit Production and Integrated Pest Management

Horticultural Oils:

Horticultural oils are pesticides that control many insects including scales, mites, aphids, whiteflies, mealybugs, and thrips. These are non-selective contact pesticides, controlling plant pests by suffocation. This is only effective for pests that are present at the time of application. Beneficials can be affected as well. Oils can be petroleum-based, or plant-derived.



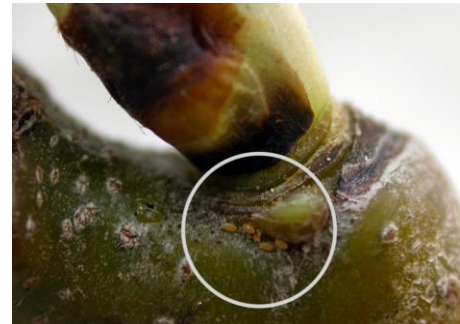
White Peach Scale – Debbie Roos, NC State

Dormant, Delayed Dormant, Summer, Superior, Supreme?

These terms really only refer to the timing of oil applications. Dormant oils are applied before bud break in late March or early April and can usually be applied at higher concentrations without fear of damaging the plants. Delayed dormant oil applications are applied when buds are anywhere from green tip to 1/2 inch of green. Summer oils are applied at lower concentrations when plants are in leaf. Superior and supreme oils are more refined, don't contain sulfur, and are safer to apply to plants in leaf without the fear of causing damage.

Dormant/Delayed-Dormant Applications:

Dormant oil applications should be applied before bud break or before the buds show color. Care should be taken as these applications can speed up bud development which increases the likelihood of frost damage. Rates for dormant/delayed dormant applications are listed on the label. Please read all labels before use.



Pear Psylla eggs – Rutgers University

Delayed dormant applications are made once buds have opened. The optimal timing for applications is between green tip and 1/2 inch of green.

Whichever method you choose, ensure that there is a 24-48 hour window of temperatures above freezing, preferably above 40°F, after the application. This will reduce the chance of damage.

For more information, check out these great Extension publications:

[Rutgers Horticultural Oil Primer](#)

[Utah State Extension – Dormant Oils](#)

[University of Nevada Extension – Horticultural Oils](#)

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