

Fall Fruit Tree Care Checklist

CLEANUP & INSPECTION

- ☐ Rake and remove all fallen leaves, fruit, and twigs.
- ☐ Bag and remove debris off-site (avoid adding fallen fruit or diseased leaves to compost).
- ☐ Remove any fruit mummies (shriveled or diseased fruit still on branches).

ROOT & TRUNK PROTECTION

- ☐ Apply a two-inch layer of mulch around the tree base.
- ☐ Wrap young trunks with white spiral guards to prevent sunscald and rodent damage.

WATERING

- ☐ Water deeply until the first frost. Allow soil to dry slightly between waterings to avoid oversaturation.

PRUNING

- ☐ Remove dead or diseased branches.
- ☐ Schedule major pruning for late winter.

FERTILIZING & SOIL HEALTH

- ☐ Avoid nitrogen-heavy fertilizers in fall.
- ☐ Consider adding trace-mineral supplements like basalt rock dust to support soil health.

PLANNING & ORDERING NEW TREES

- ☐ Research and select disease-resistant, climate-appropriate varieties.
- ☐ Check pollination needs for each variety.
- ☐ Order bare-root trees early to secure your preferred varieties.

WARM CLIMATE CONSIDERATIONS

- ☐ Mulch for moisture retention and weed control in warmer climates.
- ☐ Choose low-chill varieties if winters are mild.
- ☐ Encourage dormancy in trees struggling to go dormant naturally.

REFLECTION & PREPARATION

- ☐ Plan for spring care and next year's growth.
- ☐ Take time to appreciate your orchard's harvest and enjoy the fruits of your labor!

