



Walnut calendar

The following is the calendar for walnut management in California.



Winter Dormant Season

- **Tree management.**
 - **Pruning.** Prune trees by thinning out crowded areas to let light into whole tree.
 - Remove broken, dead branches.
- **Pest management.** Spray trees with dormant oil to control scale insects, if needed.



Spring Bloom Season

- **Pest management.**
 - Spray for blossom blight when female flowers appear (tiny nuts with feathery pistil) and at 7 day intervals until rainy weather stops. Blight appears as black blossom ends of nuts in June and later as black hollow nuts.
 - Remove all weeds from tree base to reduce competition and pest problems.
- **Nutrient management.** Fertilize mature trees with 5–7 lb. urea or 90–150 lb. manure.



Summer Growing Season

- **Pest management.** Keep tree base dry to reduce crown rot problems.
 - Spray for walnut husk fly about Aug. 1 and Aug. 15. Damage is cosmetic, control is optional.
 - Spray to control codling moth worms or tolerate damage.
- **Watering.** Irrigate trees at the drip line but away from trunks. Sprinkler irrigate with about 3" water every 3–4 weeks or drip irrigate daily during May-Oct. Young, small trees will need 4–12 gal. water/day; large trees about 20–40 gal/day.



Fall Harvest Season

- **Harvest.** Harvest nuts by shaking or poling the tree when green hulls begin to break away from the shell. Nuts are fully mature at this stage. If left on the tree or allowed to fall on their own, the hulls will rot and stick to the shell.
- **Post harvest.** Hull nuts, freeze in shell nuts to kill resident worms, and store in plastic.

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Reference: Adapted from the California Backyard orchard http://homeorchard.ucdavis.edu/Fruits_&_Nuts/Walnut/

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