

Disease control in fruit trees

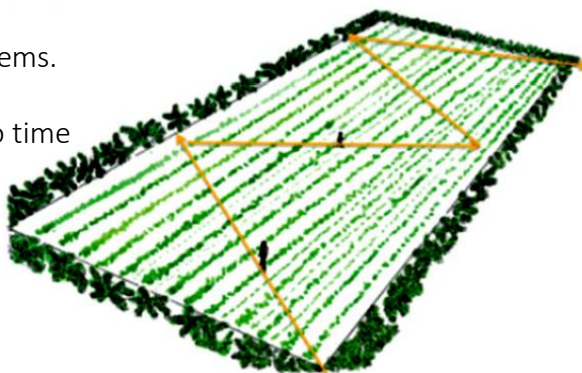
1

Regularly check for disease

To prevent outbreaks and be able to intervene early, regularly go through your fields and look for signs of disease development.

Technique:

- Check every week for signs of diseases, pests and other problems.
- Take extra care during critical times of crop growth
- Check leaves, branches, trunk, flowers, fruit, and from time to time also the roots.
- Mark problem areas on a map and mention what you found.
- Use a standard route when going through the field
→ zigzag or M-shape



2

Recognize common signs of disease in fruit trees

Poor growth or low fruit production

→ By keeping a record of the growth & production of your trees, you can compare to how your tree normally is doing.

Wilting leaves, premature leaf drop



Dying flowers



Rotting fruits



Cankers on trunk



Blackened leaves



Spots on leaves or fruits



Mushrooms at the base



3

Correctly handle infected material

Remove infected plant parts and fruits as soon as possible to stop diseases from spreading; from the ground, after pruning, etc.

This material can be used as compost, as long as:

- The heap is at least **65 °C**
- Moisture content is 40-60%
- You turn at least three times, every 7 days
- Total composting time is 4-5 months

If this is not the case, another option is to burn the infected material, but even burning does not guarantee that all pathogens are killed.



Temperature-check: Place your hand in the heap: it should be so hot you can't take it for longer than 2 seconds



Moisture-check: Take a hand of compost from the centre of the heap and squeeze: it should not release water and stay compacted