

The Jordan Fruit and Nut Tree Feeding and Pruning Chart

	CITRUS Iron and zinc as required	PRUNUS No iron or zinc	FIG Zinc as required	PECAN Zinc as required	LOQUAT No feeding	POMEGRANATE No iron or zinc Feed for 2 years only	OLIVE No iron or zinc
January	Prune	Prune after leaf drop	Little pruning after leaf drop	Hard pruning after leaf drop	Thin branches if necessary	Have an occasional tidy up of branches	Prune
February	Feed 20.10.10	Feed 20.10.10	Feed 20.10.10	Feed 20.10.10	Seriously thin out fruits	Feed 20.10.10 Feed for 2 years only	Feed 20.10.10
March					Seriously thin out fruits		
April							
May	Feed 20.10.10	Feed 20.10.10	Feed 20.10.10	Feed 20.10.10		Feed 20.10.10 Feed for 2 years only	Feed 20.10.10
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December	Feed 20.10.10	Feed 20.10.10	Feed 20.10.10 Little pruning after leaf drop	Feed 20.10.10 Hard pruning after leaf drop		Feed 20.10.10 Feed for 2 years only	Feed 20.10.10

GUIDE TO FRUIT AND NUT TREE PRUNING AND FEEDING

Even if you have only one lemon tree for your 'Gin and Tonics' you should look after it as you would an orchard. Prunus trees (almonds, apricots, cherries, peaches, nectarine and plums) need to be pruned in January. February is the ideal time for pruning Citrus, and you can prune Pecans and Figs when their leaves have dropped, usually late December. Loquats only need pruning when necessary - likely to be January. Make sure that the cuts are clean by using sharp loppers or secateurs and clean them thoroughly afterwards. Keep trees at a reasonable height for ease of pruning and fruit picking. Just look around at the commercial orchards and see the height of the trees there. Allow space to work the soil underneath to keep the area weed free and keep the trunks free of growths.

Trees need Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium as well as other trace elements in order to grow. The first letter on the fertiliser is N (Nitrogen) for green growth, but too much causes soft weak growth. The second letter P (Phosphorus) assists healthy root growth and fruit ripening, whilst the third is K (Potassium) for good flowers and fruit. These letters on fertiliser packets or bags are always in that order - NPK. Feed 20.10.10 in February, May and December - 300 g for young trees, equivalent to a half pint (300ml) mug, and three times that for mature trees. By keeping your eye on the colour of the leaves, you will notice any signs of iron or zinc deficiency. Iron shortage manifests itself in a fine network of veins on a very pale leaf and can be dealt with by digging in and watering in iron chelate around the base. Lack of Zinc gives whiteish-yellow blotchy leaves and occurs in young growth, which can persist as the leaves grow, but a foliar spray can control this. Trees do not need to be watered in winter, but mature trees need good deep heavy-drip watering every second day for about 35/40 minutes during the summer and young trees should be watered every day for around 10 minutes, depending on the soil. Keep the water away from the trunk of the tree and try to ensure that the water reaches the roots about 30 cms from the trunk.

The biggest problem with fruit trees is the Mediterranean Fruit Fly, which can be controlled by spraying. Only lemons, pecans and loquats seem to escape. It takes a mere 20 days for an egg to become a mature egg-laying adult, so smart action is required unless your want your crops to be full of little white maggots! As soon as the fruits begin to show any sign of colour then begin to spray and keep spraying every 10 days or so, or hang those sticky yellow fly cards in your trees. Ideally, you should get your neighbours to spray too! Use chemicals like a Citrone and Pyrinex mix, 60 cc Citrone with 10 cc Pyrinex in 5 litres of water. DO NOT BURY infected fruits as the fruit fly incubates in the ground! Get rid of them some other way. Some of the prunus - almonds, apricots and peaches, as well as pomegranates suffer from Blackfly and should be sprayed when the Blackfly appear. Some citrus suffer from the Asian Citrus Leaf Miner. This is caused by a tiny moth, which lays an egg on a citrus leaf. This becomes a little worm, which burrows its way inside the leaf, disfiguring it greatly and causing it to curl up. Unfortunately, spraying will not kill the worm as it is protected inside the leaf. However, the moth is vulnerable to spraying, which should be done every 7 days. Unfortunately, this will probably kill off all the 'good insects' as well. If you do not like chemicals, human urine can be used as a substitute. Luckily, the infestation does not affect the fruit crop greatly so you may well choose not to take any action.