

## Help your Fruit trees this summer

August brings bountiful fruit crops and critters to your garden! Best practice is to clean up fallen fruit every day. This will help prevent the spread of diseases and deter, to some extent, rodents from visiting your garden.

Typically, rats and skunks feed on fruit at night and squirrels and birds are the culprits during the day. Always remove dead and decaying plant material from your garden as discarded piles can attract pests,



providing safe places to breed and over winter. Keeping your garden neat and clean of debris will help reduce pest populations.

Throw your discarded fruit on your compost pile (or green bin) and don't forget to keep that compost pile alive during this hot weather by keeping it moist and turning it occasionally to incorporate oxygen into the compost pile. If you recall your biology lesson, these organisms need moisture, oxygen and heat to work.

Pests love warm weather, so be on your guard! Greenfly and blackfly especially love the heat and don't forget aphids and other sap-sucking insects can transmit viruses.

As summer continues, it is important to remember to deep-water trees. You can do this by using a soaker hose and allowing it to run for a few hours. As a guideline, mature fruit trees will benefit from deep watering approximately every 4 weeks.

