

**Q. What could happen if I don't manage my fruit trees and pests are found on them?**

**A.** If a commercial grower suspects that your trees are infested with actionable pests, he or she can file a complaint with the local **Orchard Review Board** in Payette, Washington, Gem and Canyon counties. These boards are charged with resolving problems and, if necessary, a representative will contact you about your trees. You will be instructed on how to manage your fruit trees or you could be asked to remove neglected trees. The Board will follow up at a later date. If there is no compliance, the Board has the authority to take action to control the pests. Costs for control can be recovered as a tax lien on your property.

**Q. How can I determine if planting a backyard fruit tree makes sense for me?**

**A.** Ask yourself the following questions:

- Am I willing to manage the tree every year (pruning, spraying with pesticides, harvesting the fruit)?
- Can I afford to purchase the pesticides and equipment needed to manage the trees or to pay a commercial pesticide applicator to spray several times per season?
- Am I comfortable with having pesticides applied regularly in my area?
- Is a non-fruit bearing tree perhaps a better choice for my property?



*Fruit production is an important industry in Idaho. Idaho is ranked Number 9 in the nation for production of apples. We take pride in our fruit trees!*

**Be a good and considerate neighbor. Do your part to keep control of fruit tree pests, such as Codling Moth, Apple Maggot, Cherry Fruit Fly and Oriental Fruit Moth by taking responsibility for your trees and following local laws and ordinances.**



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**APPLE  
MAGGOT**

*Rhagoletis pomonella*



*Your Responsibility  
as a  
Fruit Tree Owner*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Many people like the idea of having a few fruit trees in their backyards. The thought of fragrant blossoms in the spring and picking fresh fruit later in the season is very appealing. However, in Idaho and many other states, fruit production is a multi-million dollar industry that employs thousands of people. Planting and maintaining backyard fruit trees requires careful management and planning to prevent the spread of diseases and pests that could harm orchards and endanger livelihoods.

### Q. Are there laws in Idaho about maintaining backyard fruit trees?

A. In areas where fruit production is high, local laws may specify that you, as the owner of the trees, are legally and financially responsible for controlling pests and diseases of fruit trees on your property. This is the case whether you actually planted the trees or the trees were there when you bought the property.

### Q. What harm can my tree do?

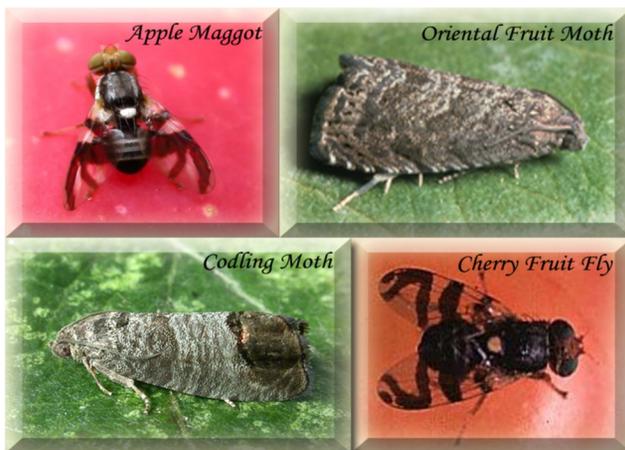
A. Your under-managed fruit trees could harbor pests and diseases that might spread to commercial orchards. If your tree is not properly maintained, these pests could easily migrate to other properties and cause serious damage.

**Apple trees often serve as the worst source of unwanted pests, although crabapple trees, hawthorn trees and cherry trees can also serve as hosts for fruit tree pests.**

### Q. What kinds of pests could infest my fruit trees?

A. The fruit tree pests of most concern in Idaho include:

- **Codling Moth:** Females deposit their eggs on foliage near apples or directly on the fruit. Larvae begin to feed on the fruit as soon as they hatch, making it unmarketable.
- **Apple Maggot:** Females place eggs directly beneath the skin of apples. The eggs hatch within a week, and the maggots feed by tunneling through the fruit.
- **Cherry Fruit Fly:** Eggs are deposited directly into cherries, where larvae will feed for up to two weeks. Afterwards, the larvae drop out of the destroyed fruit and fall to the ground where they will pupate and later become adults.
- **Oriental Fruit Moth:** These moths attack all types of stone fruit, plus apples and pears. They lay their eggs on leaf surfaces, particularly on the terminal or end leaf. Larvae feed both on tree leaves and inside of fruit. Mature moths overwinter inside cocoons located on the tree bark or in leaf litter.



### Q. How could my backyard fruit trees affect commercial orchards?

A. Backyard fruit trees that are under-managed or abandoned become havens for pests where they can feed and reproduce undisturbed until their populations become quite large. When this happens, the pests spread to the next source of food, which may include trees in commercial orchards. Once the pests are determined to be present, these orchards could lose the ability to sell their produce anywhere outside of the growing area. Producers must spend precious time and money treating their produce with pesticides or employing other management techniques to control the problem. Fruit from affected orchards often cannot be sold in domestic and foreign markets where quarantines exist. Many foreign markets have zero tolerance for infested fruit due to concern over having the pest introduced into their countries. The subsequent loss of sales impacts the economic well-being of Idaho communities.

### Q. What must I do to control pests on my backyard fruit trees?

A. If you wish to keep your trees, consult the University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Service in your county.

To find the office nearest you, visit [www.extension.uidaho.edu/find.asp](http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/find.asp) or contact a qualified pest management professional for help in devising a maintenance program for your backyard trees. Effective control usually requires careful use of pesticides.

Many people choose to simply remove their fruit trees and replace them with low-maintenance trees.