

APRICOTS

(Early July to Early August)

Description: Apricots are stone fruits that are golden in color and mature to a size slightly larger than a golf ball. They tend to ripen all together and within a short period of time, and thus need to be monitored closely throughout the middle of summer.



You know apricots are ready when:

- Their base color will turn from green to golden.
- The flesh will be soft (but not squishy, which indicates they are overripe).

Schedule a harvest. A good time to schedule your apricot tree for harvest is when most of the apricots are close to losing their green hue and close to beginning to soften. Apricot season is often our busiest time, and we may be booked up to three weeks out, so it is essential to monitor your tree and schedule it for the proper time.

We can't harvest if

- The load is too low. Must be at least **200 lbs** of fruit.
- The fruit is **overripe**. (If the apricots are too soft or mostly falling off of the tree it may be too late for us to harvest. We have to stack the fruit in bins and then transport it, so the fruit must be able to hold up in those conditions.)
- The fruit is far too **underripe**. (If the apricots are hard like rocks or are still green, let them continue to ripen on the tree.)



Maintaining Your Apricot Tree:

- **Pruning:** Apricot trees need to be pruned earlier than other fruit trees because they are the first to flower in the spring. Apricots are pruned from January to early March.

- **Fertilizing:** Fertilize yearly in the spring. If we get a freeze when the apricot flowers are in blossom you may lose the majority of the fruit. [Here](#) are some things you can do to mitigate the damage.
- **Watering:** Young trees need extra water to grow, while all fruit trees need additional water during periods of hot, dry weather. Thoroughly soak the soil around your fruit trees every other week. Mulching around the base of your tree can help retain soil moisture as well.
- **Thinning:** Thin fruit in late May leaving 4 inches between fruit.
- **Harvesting:** Apricots will ripen off of the tree, but will have better flavor if picked closer to being ripe. Handle apricots carefully when picking to avoid bruising the fruit.
- **Disease & Pest Control:** For more pest and disease information, [click here](#).
 - Apricots often display signs of coryneum blight, the most noticeable symptoms of which are small brown specks that appear on the fruit. The blight does not impact the edibility of the fruit. Coryneum blight can also cause cankers on the twigs and buds and can contribute to a gummy substance exuding from the tree. This blight can cause damage to peach trees, so if peaches are present near afflicted apricots, the apricot trees should be treated.



To sign up for our tree care services, which including pruning, fertilizing, and pest control, [click here](#).

Other Apricot Information:

- Apricots may drop before they are ready to be harvested, particularly if the tree produces a large yield of blossoms/fruit.
- Apricots bloom earlier than many fruits, which may leave them at the mercy of a late frost. They tend to either have a bumper crop or no fruit.

Storage Tips:

- Underripe apricots can ripen on the counter or in a paper bag, while ripe apricots should be refrigerated (keep in mind that they will not ripen in the fridge).
- Apricots can also be dried, frozen, or canned. [Click here](#) for more information on storing and preserving apricots.

Resources:

- [USU Extension](#)
- [Not Far From the Tree](#)
- *The Fruit Gardener's Bible*, Hill & Perry (2011)



The Green Urban Lunch Box
(801) 318-1745
fruitshare@gulb.org