

## **Control of Moss & Lichens on Fruit Trees**

Moss and lichens are non-parasitic but they do hurt fruit and nut trees by killing the fruit buds. If an ice storm occurs, those trees that are laden with moss and lichens will collect more ice and are more likely to break apart under the load. Normal spraying, especially with materials that contain copper, usually controls lichens and moss. Pruning reduces the moss and lichen load and provides sunlight penetration.

Accumulation of moss and lichen is a sign of neglect. Moss and lichen can be controlled with a spray of Bordeaux mixture copper sulfate, lime and water, or one of the fixed copper materials or lime sulfurs. Use Bordeaux 6-6-100, that is, 6 pounds copper sulfate, 6 pounds lime to 100 gallons water. Use tribasic "fixed" copper sulfate at 6 pounds per 100 gallons. Use 1-gallon lime sulfur in 10 gallons of water. Apply these sprays in winter when no foliage or flowers are showing. Filberts bloom from late December to early March so spray after that period but when there is no foliage open.

Revised by Ross Penhallegon, Horticulture Agent

Revised Aug, 2000

OSU/Lane County Extension Service

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