

Tree Fruit Bark Protection

There are many ways to protect the young bark of fruit trees from sunburn in the spring and summer and from bright sunshine in the winter. Winter sun scald occurs when the cold tree bark is exposed to warm temperatures. The warmth causes the light exposed tissue to break dormancy. The warmed tissue then dehydrates and dies due to a lack of water.

Use either exterior latex paint or whitewash to protect the bark of young fruit and ornamental trees. The protective materials are applied primarily to the south side of the tree, but can be applied all the way around the trunk and up to two feet high.

Latex Paint

1 gallon exterior white latex paint
1 gallon water

Mix equal parts of paint and water before applying to tree bark. The paint can be applied with a paint brush, sponge, air painter or with an old glove.

Whitewash

5 lbs. hydrated lime
1 gallon water
1-1/2 lbs. salt
2 quarts - warm water

Stir lime into gallon of water. Let set overnight. Dissolve salt into the 2 quarts of warm water. Gradually stir salt water into lime water. Stir every 10 minutes while painting.

Note: Make only as much material as needed to protect the tree bark so none is left over at the end of this task. These materials, once mixed, are hard to keep or store.

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