Hood River and Wasco County Pest Control Areas

To protect Oregon's agricultural and natural resources from harmful plant pests, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) establishes "control areas" under ORS Chapter 570 to:

- Prevent the spread of plant pests into or out of an area
- Limit tree-to-tree and orchard-to-orchard pest movement
- Protect the ecological and economic stability of commercial orchards

Why does this matter?

High pest populations pose significant ecological and economic threats to commercial orchards. Left untreated, trees die, fruit spoils, and remaining orchardists have to rely on pesticides to protect their crop.

Are there rules in place?

Yes. The ODA has established 16 "control areas" across the state, spanning 14 counties, including Hood River and Wasco Counties. Each control area requires people in possession of host plants to perform pest control measures to stop pests from spreading.

How does ODA define a pest?

The ODA defines a plant pest as an insect or plant pathogen (bacteria, fungi, or viruses), nematodes, or noxious weedscapable of significantly harming the environment or causing significant levels economic damage to Oregon's agricultural crops, commodities, or products.

What are the control area requirements?

Landowners, producers, and orchardists located in Hood River and Wasco Counties must implement appropriate pest management actions such as cultural, mechanical, biological or chemical controls to reduce pest populations. This may also include actively monitoring and documenting infestation levels and life stages.

Management action recommendations may come from Oregon State University or a pest management specialist.

Control area rules (OAR 603-052) apply to all areas of Hood River County and the portion of Wasco County north of the Warm Springs Reservation.



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Management actions required for the following:

	Hood River County	Wasco County
Host Plants	Pear, quince, apple, peach, apricot, hawthorn, cherry	Pear, apple, peach, apricot, hawthorn, cherry
Insect Pests	Codling moth, Oriental fruit moth, pear psylla, San Jose Scale, shot hole borer, apple maggot, peach twig borer, Western cherry fruit fly	Codling moth, San Jose scale, apple maggot, Western cherry fruit fly
Plant Diseases	Pseudomonas blight, corundum blight, peach leaf curl, fire blight, and apple scab	

For more information, contact:

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
Hood River & Wasco Co. Extension
Ashley Thompson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Horticulture
Ashley.Thompson@osu.edu
541.296.5494

COLUMBIA GORGE FRUIT GROWERS
Annika Forrester, Executive Director
office@cgfg.org
541.387.4769

ODA PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION
Chris Benemann, Director of Plant Protection
chris.benemann@oda.oregon.gov
503.986.4678

ODA PESTICIDES PROGRAM
pesticide-expert@oda.oregon.gov
503.986.4635

Publications and other resources:

- Pest Management Guide for Tree Fruits: Hood River, The Dalles, White Salmon Rogue Valley, Umatilla Count. EM8203 (Revised 2025). Oregon State University Extension Service.
- Managing Diseases and Pests in Home Orchards. EC631 (Reviewed 2024). Oregon State University Extension Service.
- Pacific Northwest Pest Management Handbooks. Oregon State University.
- Winter sprays help fruit trees stay healthy (2025). A. Thompson, Oregon State University Extension Service.