



Pomegranate Farm Book

Being a new crop it is advisable for all farmers to maintain a farm book to record the following information which should be updated and signed by the responsible person on a weekly basis;

Observations of pests and diseases

Treatment of pest and diseases indicating the compound or biological control as well as application rate

Application of fertilizers and nutrients indicating the type and application rate

Application of herbicides indicating the type and application rate

Pruning

Flowering and flower removal

Attach copies of leaf and soil analysis

Any other intervention such as sowing inter row crops, mowing etc

Pruning Guidelines

In order to achieve the desired shape trees, they are pruned in the winter to remove excess growth and branches growing along the ground. Broken, bent, and interfering branches are also removed to keep the interior of the tree open.

Generally a tree will have 3-5 trunks in modern orchards. The trees are trained to grow as an open vase in a way that light penetrates the trees from between the rows as well as from the inside of the trees. If the main branches bend too much they can be supported by binding them with broad tape to opposite side branches or by staking individual trunks. During the summer growing season suckers are removed and pruning is done according to needs.

To renew old trunks one new branch is left to develop on a trunk and can replace it within two to three years. Flower buds generally develop on short sprouts of the previous and current season's growth, therefore great care must be taken when pruning the outer canopy of the tree.

Flowering and Flower Removal

Pomegranates flower in waves throughout the growing season. The first flowers of spring generally produce the largest fruits but this initial flowering is followed by a massive bloom period. The later flowering waves will produce smaller fruit if allowed to develop, therefore it is advisable to periodically remove flowers after fruit is allowed to set to prevent the development of small unwanted fruit.



Pest and Disease Management

No chemical substances have yet been registered in South Africa for use on pomegranate so the following information is simply a list of chemicals indicating their use in foreign countries and not necessarily recommended for use in South Africa. Even in California only one or two chemical agents are registered for use there

To date the main problems experienced with pomegranate in South Africa are False Codling Moth and Thrips.

A similar type of moth (cryptoblabes) is found in Israel and Spain where they are treated with an organo phosphate or biological control method.

| Pomegranate Pests & Diseases: Recommended Chemical Treatments (Foreign) | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Problem | Treatment | | |
| Powdery Mildew | Micronized Sulphur | Bayleton | Trycure |
| | 2gm/liter | 0.5gm/liter | 2ml/liter |
| Alternaria Cercospora Phytophthora | D.M-45 | Blue Copper | Copperoxide |
| | 2gm/liter | 2gm/liter | 2gm/liter |
| Mealy Bugs Aphids Thrips | Curacron | Metasystox | Pirimicarb |
| | 1ml/liter | 1ml/liter | |
| Fruit Borer | Decis | Cymbush | Polytrin c |
| | 2ml/liter | 2ml/liter | 1ml/liter |
| | | Chlorpyrifos | |
| Stem Borer | Caldon | | |
| | 10gm/plant soil application | | |
| Other Chemicals | | | |
| Name | Active Ingredient | | |
| Neemplus | Azadirachtin | Organic | |
| Cymbush | Cypermethrin | | |
| Decis | Deltamethrin | | |
| Dithane M-45 | Mancozeb | | |
| Bayleton | Tridemefon | | |
| Pydrin | Fenvelarate | | |
| Acrobe, Bactis etc | B thuringiensis | | |



| | | | |
|-------------|------------------|--|--|
| Merit | Imidochloprid | | |
| Cuacron | Profenofos | | |
| Rimon | Novaluron | | |
| Larvin | Thiodicarb | | |
| Galben | Fenazaquin | | |
| | Gibberellic acid | | |
| Blue Copper | COC | | |

Fertiliser and Nutrient Requirements

Annual leaf and tri-annual soil analysis should be done so that the necessary adjustments to fertilizer and nutrient applications can be made from the third year.

1st year

80grams per tree per month of Bionamix 10.2.6 (18) M which is a pelleted organically enriched fertilizer enriched with micro elements OR a similar product.

OR

100kg/ha/month water soluble FM 5.1.2 (32) also enriched with micro elements OR a similar product

2nd year

120grams per tree per month of Bionamix 10.2.6 (18) M which is a pelleted organically enriched fertilizer enriched with micro elements OR a similar product.

OR

150kg/ha/month water soluble FM 5.1.2 (32) also enriched with micro elements OR a similar product