Greenhouse
Garden Center & Gift Shop

Gardeners Helping Gardeners Succeed

2450 S. Curry Street, Carson City, NV 89703
Tel:775-882-8600 Fax:775-882-7285
License #16114
www.greenhousegardencenter.com

All About
Fruit Trees Not Fruiting

Age: Many varieties need to be 3 to 4 years old or even older. Older trees may need feeding and pruning to rejuvenate.

Frost: Late frosts during bloom time.

Pollination: Some varieties require another tree to pollinize.

Pruning: With improper pruning, all fruit wood could be cut off. There are a number of booklets with good pruning advice.

Chilling: Planting wrong varieties for the climate. All fruit trees need a specific amount of chilling hours before they will produce fruit. Chilling refers to the number of hours, 45degreesF or colder, during the dormancy period. The amount varies with each variety and the hours need not be continuous.

Location: Planting in overly windy areas can cause fruit loss. The amount of chilling hours received by a tree can be affected by how close the tree is planted to a warm object such as a building.

Water: Over-watering can cause premature fruit drop. Planting fruit trees in sprinkled lawns is not recommended. Lack of deep watering can also cause fruit drop. Fall shock or stress can affect next year's fruit.

Fertilizer: Lack of food at critical times.

Greenhouse
Garden Center & Gift Shop

Gardeners Helping Gardeners Succeed

What's that Sap?

Each spring horticulturists receive inquiries from fruit tree growers about gumming or sap exudate along trunks, limbs or branches of fruit trees. Sometimes gum indicates the presence of a disease organism but often it results from physiological or environmental conditions.

If gumming is due to a disease such as bacterial canker or "gummosis", the exudate will be discolored or dark in color. In this situation the sap is subject to fermentation, foul odors and sometimes frothiness.

Where gumming is due to physiological or environmental conditions, the sap is clear in color (straw to yellow or light gold). Gum often appears naturally at pruning cuts, bud scars and points of branching from main trunks. It can also result from changes in moisture status and temperature. Trees subjected to moisture stress in the fall may gum but recover and perform well the following spring when moisture conditions are improved. Abrupt temperature changes in the spring often cause young trees to gum because of disruptions in growth activity.

When checking gumming of young trees, first inspect the internal color of the gum or exudate. If it is clear in color, then it is probable that no disease is involved. As a second check, cut a sliver of bark from the tree below the gum site. When a disease such as Phytophthora is present, the internal bark tissue will be brown while normal tissue will be light green, light yellow or white when first cut. Trees with gumming but no evidence of disease can be expected to leaf out and grow normally.