



Thinnings and drops - what to do with them?

Posted by [Molly DellaRoman](#)

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[Molly DellaRoman](#)

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July 03, 2018 08:49PM

Registered: 5 years ago

Posts: 38

We are having a lot of trouble with European Apple Sawfly and Plum Curculio this year so have been picking up all the drops and harvesting all the thinnings into 5 gallon buckets. My question is, after sometime sitting in the buckets, is it all right to compost all of these fruitlets or should they be discarded in some other way?

Thank you!

Molly

5 Star Nursery and Orchard

Zone 5, Brooklin, ME

Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 07/05/2018 04:06PM by Molly DellaRoman.

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[Michael Phillips](#)

[Re: Thinnings and drops - what to do with them?](#)

July 04, 2018 01:35PM

Moderator

Registered: 11 years ago

Posts: 621

What you don't want is for living larvae to reach soil to pupate. Sitting in buckets for a month or so probably does them in as I imagine the bulk of those fruitlets begin to compost in situ. Fill the buckets with water and larvae drown. Feed them to chickens or piglets. Place in a HOT compost pile (as opposed to dribbled across a not very active pile of organic matter). Dump them on a blacktop road and let cars run over the works. I find a limited amount of infested fruitlets when thinning and so simply put those in my pocket and then throw on our gravel driveway.

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[Molly DellaRoman](#)

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July 05, 2018 04:44PM

Registered: 5 years ago

Posts: 38

Thanks! As a follow up to this - we have 60+ peach trees on the orchard as well. We are just about done thinning them and have also been harvesting the thinnings into buckets. Wondering if people take this extra step or if there are not as many bugs/diseases to worry about in peaches that the drops and thinnings can just remain on the ground?

5 Star Nursery and Orchard

Zone 5, Brooklin, ME

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