



# J&L Garden Center

The All Season Gift and Garden Center

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## Florel® Fruit Eliminator

Crabapple trees are beautiful in bloom, but can cause problems once fruit appears; the fruit can entice a large number of unwanted wildlife, such as deer, rats and raccoons. Additionally, the fruit can make a large mess if it is unwanted or unused. Since many varieties of crabapple trees are self-pollinating, it can be difficult to stop the fruit-bearing process.



There are several methods available, none of which is guaranteed to completely stop a crabapple tree from bearing fruit; but they can be worth a try before cutting down the tree.

1. Remove all the blossoms by hand once they are in full bloom. You can pull these off, or cut them off with scissors or small pruning shears. This method is fairly easy for smaller trees; for larger trees, it may be too time-consuming.

2. Prune the tree immediately after it blooms, before fruit can form. By pruning at this time, fruit is prohibited; additionally, the tree will need to work harder to reproduce new branches and leaves, which may help prohibit fruit growth the following year, as well. However, too much pruning can cause other unwanted side effects: suckers!

3. Spray blooms with a fruit inhibitor such as **Florel Brand Growth Regulator** before fruit begins to appear, usually when blooms are half- to fully open. Timing is extremely critical; if you spray too early, or too late, the spray will not work completely. Wait until the temperature is above 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Using a hose sprayer, wet down the tree completely; a tank sprayer usually does not cover the tree as thoroughly as needed. Spray the blooms thoroughly with the Florel mix and allow it to dry on the tree.



This concentrated foliar application is great for homeowners dealing with nuisance fruits on many different varieties of trees that are making a mess of their property.



**The following information is taken directly from the Monterey Chemical Company's 'Question and Answer Fact Sheet'.**

Monterey Chemical Company manufactures Florel® Fruit Eliminator to reduce or eliminate undesirable fruit development on many ornamental trees and shrubs such as: apples, carobs, cottonwood, crabapple, elm, flowering pear, horse chestnut, maples, oaks, olives, pines, sour oranges, sweet gum and sycamore. **It also works on many other species of trees and shrubs that produce nuisance fruit.**



Application must be made prior to fruit set; so apply at the mid to full-bloom stage in sufficient water to wet (do not spray to run off). If the buds or blooms are not covered, then incomplete fruit elimination may occur.

Application made too early or too late will also not be effective. Apply at 1 quart per 10 gallons of water (3 oz gallon). The amount of spray used will depend upon the size of the tree.

Temperatures at the time of application should be between 60 F and 95 F for the best results. Do not apply to trees that are under stress from drought, high temperatures, diseases, etc.

In university tests, Florel® received 95-100% control of undesirable



fruit on many species. However, timing is extremely critical.

### Questions & Answers

#### What is Florel Fruit Eliminator?

A contact growth regulator based on the chemical ethephon. It is widely used in agriculture as a ripening agent.



#### How does It work?

Florel Fruit Eliminator breaks down into ethylene, a naturally occurring compound, in the plant. When a plant is under stress it produces ethylene. If the plant is in bloom at the time of excess ethylene production, the first symptom is blossom abortion. This is how Florel works, it causes the plant to abort it's blossoms.

#### When should I use Florel Fruit Eliminator?

The best time for application on any flowering plant is the mid to full bloom stage.

#### Can I spray after fruit has set?

No, it's too late.

#### How much Florel Fruit Eliminator do I use?

3 oz. 1 gallon of water, OR, 1 qt. with 10 gallons of water, OR, 2.5 gallons with 100 gallons of water. **Read the Label before mixing and applying**

### How much water do I use on each tree?

The tree needs to be sprayed to wet. Excessive runoff is a waste of material. 5 - 10 gallons of spray is recommended to treat an average size tree.

### How many applications do I make with Florel Fruit Eliminator?

Only one if properly timed.



### Should I use a surfactant?

On evergreen trees (olives, citrus, etc.) a surfactant is not recommended. On deciduous trees a surfactant may be used.

### The label says that fruit elimination may not be satisfactory on small, red-fruited crabapple varieties.

#### What's the deal?

**We don't know.** This statement was put on the label years ago and no one remembers why! Our research to date shows that Florel does work on these varieties. We are currently trying to have this statement removed from the label.

### Is it necessary to cover the lawn or shrubs growing under the Tree?

No. If concerned about drift simply wash off with water.

### At what temperature should I use Florel Fruit Eliminator?

This product works best when the daytime temperature is between 60- 90 F.

### Does Florel Fruit Eliminator kill bees?

Florel has no insecticidal properties.

### I planted my apples, crabapples or pears to enjoy the flowers. If I use Florel will I loose my flowers?

If the above directions are followed, application at full bloom may cause you to loose about 2 days of flowering as they fall off the tree.

### How do I mix Florel Fruit Eliminator?

Only mix enough solution to supply your morning spray needs. Because once mixed with water, Florel will start to hydrolyze. Then mix the amount you will need for afternoon spraying just before use. If the pH of the spray solution rises above pH 5 it will be ineffective.

### Will Florel Fruit Eliminator cause corrosion to my equipment?

No, under normal conditions Florel will not cause corrosion. It cleans out easily with water. The pH is 2.5 when mixed with water so it is very acidic. Therefore, do not leave in a spray tank overnight. Spray out all the material that has been mixed.

### Should I be concerned about drift when using Florel?

Yes. Do not allow the material to dry on shiny, painted surfaces such as car and trucks. Florel does not have any effect on sidewalks, house paint, etc.

### Are there adverse effects on the leaves when Florel Fruit Eliminator is used?

No. Florel works on contact only, it does not enter the tree like other growth regulators. Therefore, it will not have adverse growth effects and there is no burn ("phytotoxicity)

to the new leaf growth.

### Does Florel Fruit Eliminator have any odor?

Florel is an odorless clear liquid.

### Can I mix Florel Fruit Eliminator with insecticides, etc?

Due to the acidity of the spray solution, mixing Florel with other materials such as insecticides is not recommended.

### If the tree is stressed for any reason can I treat it anyway?

No. If the tree is already under stress Florel Fruit Eliminator may increase stress on the tree.

### How much does Florel cost?

Florel Fruit Eliminator should cost less than \$10 per tree following the above directions.

### Can I use Florel Fruit Eliminator on other trees to control nuisance fruit?

Florel Fruit Eliminator is registered to control nuisance fruit in ornamental trees and shrubs such as: Apple, Crabapple, Carob, Cottonwood, Elm, Flowering pear, Horsechestnut, Maple, Oak, Olive, Pine, Sour orange, Sweetgum and Sycamore trees.

### How is Florel Fruit Eliminator packaged?

Florel is available to the homeowners in pint and quart containers. For commercial application, Florel is available in 1 gallon and 2.5 gallon containers



### When should I use Florel® brand Growth Regulator on Sweet Gum trees?

The best time for application on any flowering plant is the mid to full bloom stage. The ideal time for spraying sweet gum is right after the tiny balls form below the catkin. After application, these tiny balls simply dry up and fall off.

### Where do I get Florel Fruit Eliminator?

From your local agricultural or horticultural chemical dealer and many garden centers.

### Where can I get labels and additional information?

Give us a call at Monterey Lawn and Garden Products  
Phone: 559-499-2100  
Fax: 559-499-1015  
Web: [www.montereylawngarden.com](http://www.montereylawngarden.com)

### Standard Chemical Precautions

- Users should wash hands before eating, drinking, chewing gum, using tobacco or using the toilet.
- Remove clothing immediately if pesticide gets inside. Then wash body thoroughly and put on clean clothing.
- Remove Personal Protective Equipment immediately after handling this product.
- As soon as possible, wash thoroughly and change into clean clothing.
- Wash the outside of gloves before removing.
- Avoid contact with skin, eyes or clothing.
- Harmful if absorbed through skin.
- Causes moderate eye irritation.
- Keep out of reach of children.

### More Resources

- <http://www.montereylawngarden.com/faqs/florel.html>
- [http://www.montereylawngarden.com/pdf/florel\\_gr\\_sup\\_03.pdf](http://www.montereylawngarden.com/pdf/florel_gr_sup_03.pdf)
- <http://greenhouse.ucdavis.edu/pest/pmsds/Florel%20Brand%20Growth%20Regulator.pdf>
- <http://www.gpnmag.com/using-florel-effectively>