

# Holistic Orchard Management *in a Nutshell*

by

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Fascinating biological connections make for a healthy orchard ecosystem. All insect pests and fruit tree disease . whether fungal or bacterial . have launching points and particular timing. Healthy trees address these challenges first and foremost *from within*. Growers utilizing an ongoing investment in the fungal duff and biodiversity set the stage for nutritional and biological sprays to grow a successful fruit crop. The challenges you face at your locale will become far more manageable as you build a holistic system that keeps trees and berry plantings healthy from the get-go.

The five tenets of *holistic growing* are as follows:

**Fungal Stewardship** . mycorrhizal symbiosis is the foundation

**Mineralization** . fertility ratios and enzyme cofactors

**Tree Immune Function** . boosting phytochemical resistance

**Competitive Colonization** . reinforcing arboreal biology

**Outrageous Diversity** . plant community resilience and beneficial allies

Equally telling is the nutrient density. and flavor! . of the apples we then harvest for fresh eating and cider. Engaging environmental reality ups fruit brix yet again and keeps us all healthy. Utilizing pure neem oil, liquid fish, seaweed, effective microbes, and fermented plant extracts allows us to leave behind the mineral fungicides of %Old School Organics+for the most part. These are exciting times to be growing healthy fruit!

Shifting the paradigm allows us to engage **healthy plant metabolism** pathways fully:

- Photosynthesis efficiency
- Nitrogen utilization and complete proteins
- Fatty acid assets
- Resistance metabolites

Every grower strives to make intelligent choices within the framework of his or her individual belief system. We can only learn from each other if we respect each other. Holistic orcharding is all about finding healthier answers that honor all species.