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yard/garden
radio briefs

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Fruits



University of Minnesota Extension Horticulturist Leonard Hertz says handle apples and pears with care when you harvest them. If you plan to use summer apples for pies and sauce, you can harvest them before they reach full maturity. Generally, pick them when they are needed.

Harvest fall and winter apples and pears when they reach the proper stage of maturity, separating readily from the fruit spurs and before they drop. You may want to pick the tree several times in order to get all fruit at the right stage of maturity. Grasp the fruit and lift it up to "unhinge" the stem from the spur.

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Slugs

(0:15)

Slugs can be troublesome in strawberries, particularly during very rainy seasons. These pests are not seen frequently in the planting, since they are active mostly at night. They damage the crop by eating out holes in the ripening berries. Shiny, slimy trails throughout the planting are clear evidence of the presence of these pests.

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Dahlias

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Dahlias are fast growing, succulent plants and require large amounts of water. It is important to keep the soil moist, but not extremely wet. Their fleshy roots can be damaged if excessive moisture excludes air from the soil. If a dry period occurs during flowering, water plants thoroughly twice a week.

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