Best Management Practices for Fertilizing Orchards

1. Analyze leaf nutrients on a regular basis and use the information to guide fertilization practices.

2. Gather information on nitrogen removed from the orchard and use this as a general guideline for “nitrogen needs”.

3. Account for nitrogen in irrigation water, cover crops, manures and composts.
   Formula for water- _____mg/l NO₃-N x 2.7 = _____lbs N per acre-foot of water

4. Use split applications – the more applications the better.
5. Avoid applying fertilizer at times of the year when uptake is poor.

6. Place fertilizer for maximum uptake and minimum loss.

7. Don’t over-irrigate, especially after a fertilization event.

8. Use foliar applications where feasible.