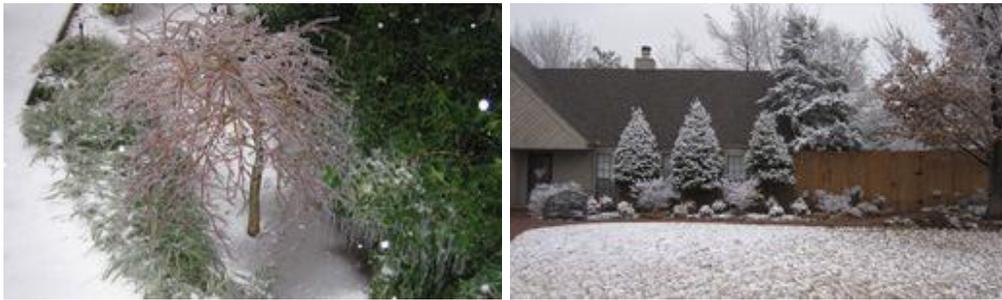




Plants suffer cold damage when they lose moisture from their leaves but can't replace the moisture because the soil is dry or the water in the ground is frozen. Knowing and following a few basic principles will go a long way towards protecting your plants from winter damage and helping them leaf out again next spring. We recommend the following guidelines:



Mulch

The best way to insulate the soil is with a 1 1/2" - 2" layer of Marcum's private label cedar mulch. Snow on the ground (or on top of the mulch) will also provide some insulation--if you have snow on the ground, leave it right where it is!

Apply FreezePruf

Marcum's Nursery carries this eco-safe and biodegradable product that improves natural cold tolerance by 2 to 9 degrees, depending on the plant variety and winter conditions. Applications last up to four weeks and it's perfect for perennials as well as fruit and vegetable plants.

Cover Plants

Cover plants with a frost cloth, burlap, or plastic to protect plants an extra 2-6 degrees. Make sure the material does not touch the plant; otherwise, it will just transfer the cold. Remove coverings during the daytime once temps stay above freezing; this allows plants to absorb the warming sunlight.

Prune Conservatively

Do not prune cold-sensitive plants until spring has arrived. If your plant is injured, leave the damaged burnt leaves on the plant to protect the foliage underneath. Premature trimming may damage tender new growth caused by a late cold snap. You may also end up cutting out more than is necessary, mistaking still-alive growth for dead. Prune only after new growth has started to appear.

Believe it or not, a light layer of snow is actually good for perennials. Heavy wet snows can weigh down and break branches--but try not to remove all the snow, as it is an excellent insulator against the frigid temperatures that may injure plants.

If you have any questions as to which plants to protect, ask one of our nursery professionals. We'll do our best to help ensure your plants withstand the winters in Oklahoma.