

Freeze Protection

By: Melinda Sperl

Protecting your plants from freeze can be a tricky thing but usually can be done with proper preparation. If we have the normal winter for our area we don't lose too many plants but the last two years we had hard freezes and lost a tremendous amount of plants so good preparation can go a long way to help your plants.

The number one thing for bedding plants is mulch. Mulch will help keep the warmth and moisture in the ground and the freeze further away from tender roots. Water well before a freeze but not during the actual freeze or you will have icicles.

Most grass has shallow root systems and is dormant now. If you have green fertilized grass or over seeded rye grass when it freezes, water well before a freeze and it should survive without a problem. Make sure you turn off your irrigation system during a hard freeze.

Bring in any small potted plants and cover those that you leave out in the elements. Cover plants with any material except plastic.

Grafted Trees, like fruit, can be too large to cover so make sure you at least cover over the grafted area so the top may freeze but you can recover the plant.

Happy Gardening!

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