



PROPER PRUNING PRACTICES FOR FROST DAMAGED PLANTS

When we start to see new Leaf Bud's starting to emerge, this is the time to start thinking about our plan of action for proper pruning techniques. Dead stems should be trimmed back to the first Bud showing sign of re-growth (usually a Node showing signs of Bud swell)

Be sure to make cuts only leaving a very small stub 1/4" Max on shrubs, and make all pruning cuts on tree limbs at the branch bark collar, always keeping in mind the shape and appearance of the finished product.

After your frost pruning is complete, clean dead leaf litter from around the base of the shrub to inhibit soil born fungi from growing and allowing for the root system to breathe and take in nutrients.

Follow your spring plant clean up with a Fertilizer applied at the recommended rate and water in thoroughly. A well-balanced Fertilizer is recommended such as 20-20-20, and your local garden shop should be able to help you with choosing a good product.

Watering schedules should be adjusted for the upcoming season, remember that deep water penetration infrequently is the best practice to keep salts from building up in the soil while promoting good root development.

This is a good rule of thumb for all woody plants; shrubs and trees. Some of the worst damage we are experiencing is with the tropicals; Ficus and Palms. All of which are not recommended in our climate where we experience hard freeze winters and hot dry summers.

This may be a good time to think about replacing the severely damaged plants with species that are better adapted to our climate. There are many publications that provide examples with photographs such as "Plants for dry climates" and Western garden book; all of which are available at your favorite bookstore.

Happy gardening.

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