

Nottingham Country Garden Club

Newsletter

March, 2018



This month the newsletter topic is helping yards and plants recover from the freeze. Faced with a yard full of frost damaged plants, often the first impulse is to start pruning, removing and replacing plants or trees. Unfortunately, this is not the best course of action.

PLANTS

Any plant that is still alive will attempt to recover from freeze damage. The threshold of damage will be different for each plant and for each species. Many plants will have lost all their woody parts, but will begin to re-grow from root or stems. Some gardeners will not like the appearance of their gardens as they wait for the plants to recover. Each gardener will be asking whether to allow the plants to recover in their own way/time or whether to replace them with new and vigorously growing plants.

The full extent of the damage may not be apparent until warm weather arrives and plants begin to re-grow. As a result, pruning should be delayed in all cases where frost damage is apparent. When growth resumes in the spring, it will be easy to see which stems and/or branches are not recovering. Branches that are crossing another branch can be removed at any time. The crossing branches will continue to rub against each other, causing damage to one or both branches.

FERTILIZATION

Plants damaged by freezing should not be fertilized until active growth resumes in the spring. The loss of leaves experienced by most freeze damaged plants inhibits their ability to metabolize and use fertilizers. In some cases, more damage could result from improper and over-zealous fertilization. When you do begin to apply fertilizers, take caution of the compromised state of many plants. Consider using fertilizers which are balanced and which have low numbers. Try to avoid fertilizers with high nitrogen on landscape plants after freeze damage. The high nitrogen may cause rapid growth which the plant is not ready to handle.



LAWNS

“Now that we are well on our way to spring, it is a great time for gardeners to put down MicroLife’s Humates Plus. It’s a wonderful organic soil conditioner that also is great for reducing plant water use, greens plants quickly and helps reduce the spread of weeds.” from Buchanan’s Weekly Newsletter.

[When **MicroLife’s Humates Plus** is applied, it quickly opens up the soil and the super nutrients drop into the root zone. It builds bigger root systems and increases soil organic matter. Water and oxygen flow is increased all to the plant’s benefit. Plants get a major nutritional boost by the inclusion of 70 + minerals, plant hormones, plant stimulators, vitamins and amino acids.]



Next month —

◆ Butterfly Gardening

