

Moving on from the cold weather

The end of January held the longest patch of sub-freezing weather that we have had in over 35 years. The worst part of this was there were days when the temperature



was below freezing in excess of 12 hours. While most of our plants can handle freezing, the hard part becomes the prolonged duration of the freeze. This cold weather effects our diverse plant selection differently.

This type of freezing temperatures sends some of our plants into dormancy while on others it kills off the newer "soft" growth on the ends of the branches. Some of our desert trees lose more leaves than normal while other more sensitive trees literally die back to the main trunk or are killed all together. Many of our cactus varieties are cold tolerant but can't withstand the constant or prolonged cold. These types of cacti needed to be protected and insulated from the cold temperatures.

I am extremely grateful for the hard work of our crews in getting our clients' plants ready

to embrace the cold weather. It took 12-15 of our guys almost 3 days to get all the properties ready. As the weather warmed we started to remove the protection and we were very pleased to see very little damage and while this was a very difficult time for a lot of our plants this was much needed "chill time" for some of our fruit trees.

With such a mild winter some of the trees such as apricot, peach, and apples were not getting enough "chill time". Chill time is usually considered temperature below 45 degrees. All these chill hours add up and the more chill hours the more and better fruit that is set for the next season. So if you have one of these types of trees then enjoy the extra fruit you will have this year and try and forget about any damage the cold has caused other plants in your yard.



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