

COLD DAMAGE GARDENING TIPS *from Peterson Nursery*

Written by Howell Peterson 12/1989 Revised by Karen Peterson Norris 2/2/26

HOW TO CARE FOR FREEZE DAMAGED TROPICALS - HARDY AND TENDER

The Central Florida area has been subjected to sustained twelve or more hours of extremely low, freezing temperatures with winds causing chill factors of well below zero and/or teens. It is important that steps be taken to help restore the damage landscape to its natural beauty. We recommend the following action be taken as soon as a killing frost or freeze is over.

FIRST- Maintain adequate water (moisture). This should be done no matter how bad the lawn, trees or shrubs look. The root system may still be in an undamaged condition.

SECOND- Spray a fungicide on damaged plants and the chemical that is **cleared** for use on the specific plants; Daconil 2787 (SA's L.O.V), Dithane M-45, Liq. Copper or other. Application should be made 3 times at recommended dosages found on the label. **IMPORTANT: ALWAYS READ THE LABEL.**

THIRD- DO NOT PRUNE OR CUT BACK DAMAGED PORTIONS until **danger of frost and freezing is over**. Bank up soil around tropical plants that have been damaged to protect them from future cold damage. Pruning damaged plants back could be until beginning or mid-March.

NOW MAINTAIN UNTIL SPRING by following good horticultural practices. When the danger of cold is over and spring is here, the home owner will have a lot of work to do, but remember – **DON'T BECOME DISCOURAGED!** Many of these plants will recover and grow quickly because of their healthy root systems. This is a major reason for keeping cold damage plants well watered. Several applications with Miracle-Gro, 20-20-20 or 10-30-20 soluble fertilizer will keep the roots in a healthy growth condition.

SPRING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PLANTS, TREES, SHRUBS AND LAWNS

FIRST – Prune back damaged wood until good, firm, green wood is located. Dead wood will be brown and decayed. Look for new sprouts or buds. **SEE DIAGRAM BELOW** You may have to cut back to ground level – if it is necessary, expose the stump below ground level to permit growth from this area.

SECOND – Paint these cuts larger than 1-2 inches with pruning paint or white glue.

THIRD – Apply 6-6-6 or 10-10-10 granular fertilizer when growth appears – at one-half of the recommended amount, then apply the other half about six weeks later out where the branches are.

FOURTH – Maintain adequate water supply and supplement your water with soluble (liquid) fertilizer.

REMEMBER water restrictions still apply, water thoroughly.

SPECIAL CASES

PALMS – Damage to certain palms may be so extensive that all fronds are dead and the bud fronds slide out. Spray copper fungicide into bud area to prevent fungi and an insecticide, Systemic Insecticide, Merit (Bayer Products) or Orthene, to prevent insects (borers). A 100% organic 6-6-6 fertilizer or Espoma Palm – Tone Fertilizer should be applied also. *If palms are mushy, it is dead.*

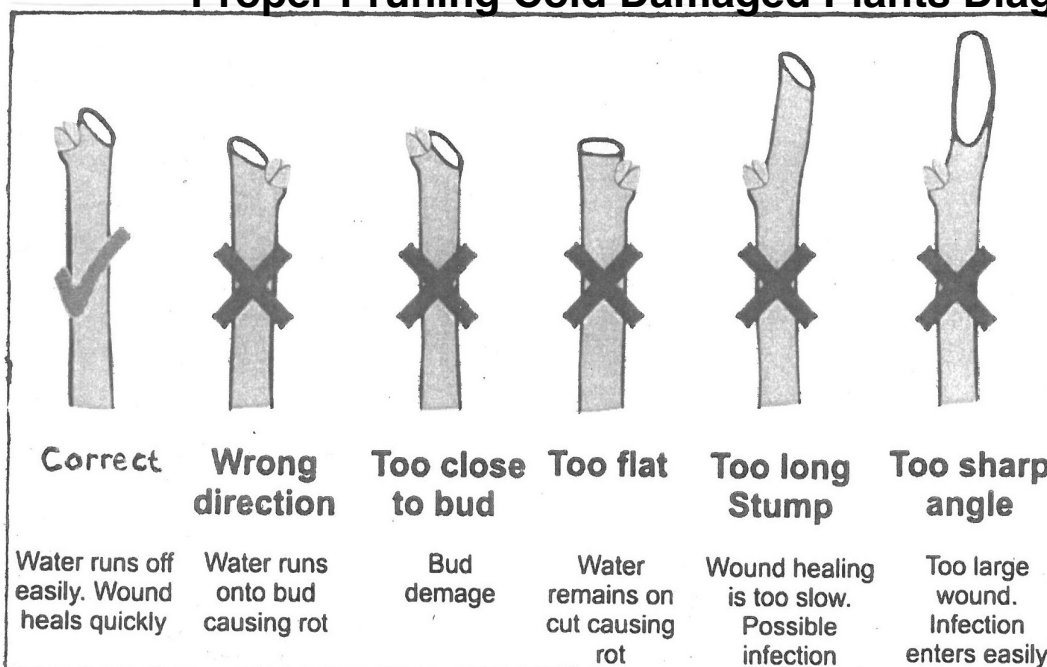
CITRUS – If trees were killed to ground level, check to see if tree sprouts are above or below the budded area. If below the budded area, remove and replace the tree. If above the budded area, allow one main trunk to develop and the tree will return to bearing size quickly in a few years.

LAWNS – Maintain adequate water supply. In the spring, cut very close to remove brown stubble and fertilize with a high-grade fertilizer such as, Turf Builder 16-2-8. De-thatching removal of dead grass should be done with caution. **NO** Weed and Feeds! But use of Weed preventer, should be withheld until grass shows recovery and actively growing and could be Mid-March.

ROSES – Damage to roses could be minimal and restricted only to top growth. If canes are undamaged by cold then normal pruning should be done at the recommended time of year. Remember to follow proper pruning procedures using pruning sealants and fungicides. After growth begins, it may be necessary to prune some canes further back because of lower freeze damage.

Any Questions please call us at Peterson Nursery & Garden Center, Inc. 863-644-6491

Proper Pruning Cold Damaged Plants Diagram



PETERSON
NURSERY & GARDEN CENTER, INC.

PN "Personalized Service"
(863) 644-6491

Serving our Community Since 1932
Open Mon. - Sat. / Closed Sunday
www.petersonnursery.com

Our Only Location: Highland Square Plaza
2184 E. County Road 540 A Lakeland, Fla 33813
Nursery Stock Dealer #11505793

