



Winter Preparation Guide

All plants sold by Hinsdale Nurseries are winter hardy for our area (zone 5). The following guidelines will ensure your plant's continued health through the cold months.

Trees & Shrubs

- Evergreens should be well watered throughout the fall, until the first hard frost, to prevent excessive needle dropping or browning.
- Broadleaf evergreens (rhododendron, holly, euonymus and boxwood) benefit from a late fall application of an anti-transpirant spray, such as WiltPruf. This will prevent moisture loss in the foliage.
- Deciduous trees and shrubs should be watered and mulched before the ground freezes to protect the roots over the winter and aid in spring growth. Shredded bark should be applied around the base of the roots, being careful not to bury the trunk where it touches the soil, to avoid rotting.
- Arborvitae can be damaged by heavy snow and ice which can break branches or pack around the base and burn the leaves. To avoid these problems, tie weaker branches to the trunk of the tree with rope, not wire. A burlap screen placed about a foot away can be used to protect the tree from snow pack or wind damage.

Perennials

- Water through a dry fall but do not overwater. Perennials need less moisture as they shut down for the winter.
- Most perennials can be cut back to the ground in late fall. This will keep the garden clean and neat for winter. Perennials that give winter interest, such as ornamental grasses, should not be cut back until new growth begins to emerge in the early spring.
- Woody perennials, such as butterfly bush, should be pruned back by one third when they start leafing out in the spring.
- Mulch around the root area of most perennials to a depth of at least 2 inches. In the early spring, the mulch should be pulled back several inches from the base of plants to avoid disease and rotting.

Shrub Roses

- Shrub roses should continue to be watered until the first hard frost.
- Shrub roses should not be cut back or pruned in the fall, wait until spring.
- Mulch around the base of the plants to a depth of 2 to 4 inches, extending past the width of the plant. As with perennials, mulch should be pulled back several inches from the base of the plants in early spring to prevent disease and rotting.