



Frost Damage *in The Valley*

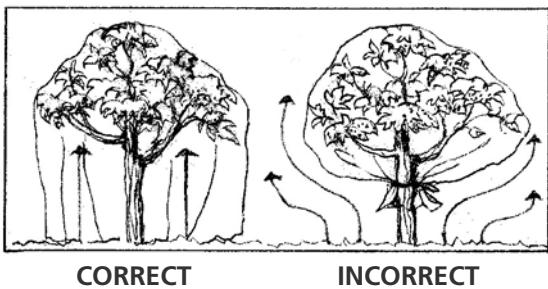
There have been several frost warnings so far this winter, and as a result there has been extensive frost damage in The Valley. Frost warnings can extend through late February. This amount of frost damage has not occurred in The Valley for many years. Therefore, you may receive inquiries from homeowners about frost damage in their common areas and in their own yards. The following is information on frost damage.

Variations in temperature are due to differences in elevation, density of population and other factors. Common symptoms of frost damage include severe blackening of fruit or leaves and dieback of stems or shoots. Winter annuals are particularly sensitive to frost, but there are ways to prevent damage.



Reduce Heat Loss

- Cover plants with cloth or paper (not plastic) to insulate. Completely drape the plant all the way to the ground. The goal is to trap the heat being radiated from the ground.
- Remove the covering each morning.
- Consult a local nursery for products made specifically for covering plants.
- Work with your landscape vendor to facilitate plant removal and replacement where appropriate.



What To Do If Frost Damage Occurs

- DO NOT prune frost-damaged plants until early spring (mid-February) - after the threat of more frost.
- The frost-damaged leaves and stems help insulate the rest of the plant and can prevent further damage.
- Pruning the damaged areas stimulates new growth which is susceptible to late frosts.
- Wait another six to eight weeks to see what plants, or portions of plants, will recover.

References

- <http://www.ag.arizona.edu/maricopa/garden/> - a great resource for all of your gardening questions!
- <http://ag.arizona.edu/extension/pubs/garden/az1002.pdf>