

WINTER PROTECTION TIPS FOR TREES & SHRUBS

Winter may decorate your landscape in beautiful white snow here in PA, but once spring arrives it can leave your trees, shrubs and lawn in disarray. Between the salt, snow, ice and wind, winter weather can be quite destructive to your lawn and landscape.

Fortunately there are some simple steps you can take to help protect your investments. With a little preparation before the next big storm, you can keep your lawn and landscape in top shape so they'll be looking great when spring finally rolls around.

Protection from animals

Depending on which furry friend is after your landscape, there are a few approaches that work well. Common solutions to the problem of gnawing critters include tree guards, repellents, and temporary fencing or wraps.



Protection from frost/cold

New or sensitive plantings should have a thick layer of mulch laid around the base (but not piled up right against the trunk), maintaining a depth of 2 to 3 inches. This helps keep the soil frozen, rather than having it freeze and thaw repeatedly, which can uproot your tree or shrub. This also helps keep the soil moist, so your tree or shrub receives adequate water between periods of precipitation.

Protection from salt

Any greenery planted near the road is likely to get hit with road salt, which is very harmful. While melting ice on the road is a good thing for safe driving, your trees and shrubs suffer from exposure to salt-laden water. Using burlap, shrub wraps, or erosion-control fabric with fine mesh will prevent salt seeping through and requires just a small amount of setup.



Protection from snow and ice

If there is an area around your home that regularly sees falling icicles or snow melt, you'll want to build a small structure with a roof to protect your shrubs. To protect upright shrubs or evergreens that tend to collect a lot of snow, wrap them with twine in a tight column. If this isn't possible due to the size, you should gently clear the snow as it starts to accumulate.

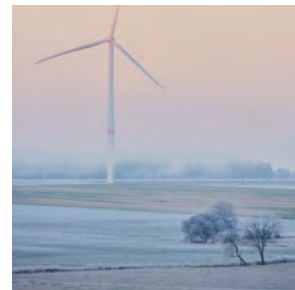


Protection from sun

Did you know the sun can cause quite a bit of damage to your landscape in the winter? A warm winter sun heats up the bark, then after the sun sets and the temperature quickly drops, it can freeze and crack. The younger the tree, the more susceptible it is to this type of sunscald. Trees with southern exposure are at the greatest risk. Fortunately, there are cloth tree wraps designed to provide sun protection in these circumstances.

Protection from wind

Similar to the screen you set up to protect trees and shrubs from salt, a wind screen helps prevent your new plantings from drying out. This is also another great use for shrub wraps. Especially when the ground is frozen, foliage suffers because moisture is lost through foliage just when the roots are unable to absorb water.



We hope this article will help you keep your landscape looking its best as we get closer to spring. If you need help with any of these tasks, or if spring rolls around and you see the effects of the harsh winter on your landscape, give Hively Landscapes a call at 717-292-5696.

