Movement of Fertilizer Nutrients and Pesticides

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1991 analyses of water samples will continue. Data analyses, interpretation and preparation of the final report will also take place.

References


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Drought/Winter/Stress Evident in the Landscape

By Deborah Brown
Extension Horticulturist
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The fall of '89 and the winter of '89/90 have combined with the past two years' drought to leave us a legacy of injury, die-back and outright death of plants in the landscape.

Now we're seeing a trend of calls about trees that have leafed out slowly, sporadically, or not at all. Sometimes it is the upper 1/4th of the tree that has died back. In others, only the lower 1/4th remains alive. Shrub roses that have been perfectly hardy for years died down to the base, where tiny new shoots are just coming out. Other trees and shrubs have leafed out, but are dying and dying back.

In an attempt to aid many of these plants that look so ragged, people want to fertilize them. Unfortunately, this just adds to the stress they're experiencing by giving them a push to send out new growth at a time when they haven't even the ability to pop out normal spring growth. All people can do is prune out dead, brittle growth and water regularly once the weather turns hot and dry. Some plants will come back; others will have to be removed and replaced.

Watering Evergreens Essential

By Deborah Brown
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So many evergreen shrubs and trees were damaged by last year's unfavorable weather—little autumn rainfall, extreme cold in December without benefit of snow-cover on the ground and the drying effects of sun and wind. They looked green early in the spring, but turned brown, yellow or orange rapidly, once temperatures began to climb.

There's no way to guarantee your evergreens will be okay this winter, but regular watering throughout the growing season can insure that they don't go into winter under moisture-stressed conditions. Several inches of woodchip mulch laid beneath each plant also helps stem moisture loss through evaporation and holds off the date at which the soil freezes, to a point a little later in the season.

Unless it's dreadfully hot, a good soaking every seven to ten days should be adequate. Then as weather cools in autumn, that interval can be stretched to two weeks or more, depending on rainfall. Never water evergreens if the soil is already moist. Unless they're planted in sandy soil, you run the risk of rotting their roots.

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