

SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS FOR TREES

Inspect newly planted trees and make sure that the guy wires are tight and the stakes are firmly set to prevent their being blown down or tipped over by winter storms.

Injury from winter sunscald is common on young, recently planted shade trees, particularly on maple, beech, mountain ash and other thin-barked species. Usually a long vertical section of bark is killed on the exposed side of the trunk, the wound often extending from the lower branches to the ground. Sunscald injury can be prevented by wrapping the trunk with burlap or commercial tree-wrapping paper obtainable at any horticultural supply house.

Ornamental evergreens frequently suffer from the drying effects of the sun and high winds during the winter months. A windbreak composed of burlap stretched over a wooden framework or around stakes driven firmly into the ground helps prevent injury from this source. And, of course, evergreens should be watered plentifully before winter arrives to assure an adequate supply of soil moisture during the cold weather.

Mulches spread around trees and shrubs help to stabilize soil temperatures and check evaporation of moisture from the soil. Mulches may consist of peat-moss, straw, hay, well-rotted manure, leaves or similar materials; they should be stirred or turned over with a fork occasionally to prevent them becoming so compacted that air cannot pass.

Rodent injury to trees and shrubs may be prevented by placing guards of wire mesh around the trunk. These guards should be attached to stakes driven firmly into the ground several inches away from the trunk, and should be high enough to prevent rabbits reaching over the top. To keep mice away from the tree, the bottom of the wire guard should be buried an inch or so in the soil. Young fruit trees, ornamental crab-apples, hawthorns, plums and similar species are especially susceptible to rodent injury.

After your cut Christmas tree has served its purpose indoors, "plant" it upright in your back yard and festoon its branches with lumps of suet, strings of popcorn, cranberries and similar bird delicacies. We venture you will be amazed at the number and variety of birds that will visit your tree.

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