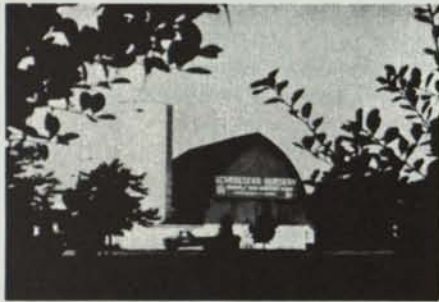


# Schroeder's Nursery, Inc.



## TREES - EVERGREENS - SHRUBS

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## SNOW COVER A MIXED BLESSING

The tremendous amount of snow we have had this year is both beneficial and possibly injurious, depending on the plant material involved. According to James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Horticulturist in Cook County, it is fortunate that most of the snow that has fallen in the Northern part of the state has been light and has not weighed branches of evergreens and shrubs down. The snow has sifted through the branches and built up around the plants. In this case, the plants are well supported, covered completely in many cases, and well-insulated from the cold.

Fizzell says the insulating value of snow is very beneficial to many plants. If root systems are exposed to the severe temperatures we have had recently, they can be injured or even killed outright. This happened two years ago when we had little snow cover and extreme temperatures. The snow also prevents frost penetration and, in many places, there is no frost in the ground. Without the snow, frost could penetrate deeply enough to freeze water and sewer lines.

Where heavy snow or freezing rain has fallen, shrubs and trees weighed down may suffer broken branches.

Particularly damaging to foundation plantings is snow sliding from overlaid roofs. The weight of this snow will break down shrubs and evergreens and should be removed. Dripping from the roof as snow melts will result in an accumulation of ice on the shrubs below. According to Fizzell, a structure of saw horses and planks to deflect the ice has been used successfully in some cases. If you are thinking about a new planting or redoing an old one, keep in mind the snow slide problem and locate plants accordingly.

Fizzell thinks when the snow begins to melt, we may find very little damage to plants which have spent the winter under cover. In lawns, where snow is slow to melt or drainage is poor, there may be some snow mold. Be on the lookout for it and treat accordingly.

**James A. Fizzell**  
Senior Extensive Adviser, Horticulture  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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