

HELP MINIMIZE SALT INJURY TO SHADE TREES

Each winter, thousands of tons of salt are applied to streets and highways in Illinois to combat snow and ice. While this helps provide dry, safe highways, it also causes injury and death of plantings.

According to James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Horticulturist in Cook County plants are injured when they come in contact with the salt which causes mechanical or chemical damage to the plant cells.

The salt...whether moved by the spray of passing traffic or into the soil...can cause disfigurement, can reduce plant growth and can cause plant death, Fizzell says.

Spray-salt damage is most evident along heavily travelled roads where high-speed traffic deposits sprays of salt on plants, causing the tissue to dehydrate, Fizzell says.

In city areas, where traffic moves more slowly, the greatest threat is a build-up of soil salts and excess sodium and chloride in the tissue of the trees and shrubs along city streets, driveways and sidewalks. Salt plowed and shoveled onto boulevards and lawns may also be absorbed by the roots, causing direct toxicity to the plants.

The damage means increased maintenance costs for pruning, fertilizing and extra care for damaged plants. While salt-tolerant species are available, it is hard to match them to soils best suited for them. Fizzell says, there also is the increased risk of a single disease or insect destroying a lot of trees when a single species is used.

One way to avoid the damage is to avoid deicing salts. Although this may not be totally feasible in rugged weather, Fizzell suggests the salts also can be diluted

by mixing them with an abrasive such as sand, cinders or ash. Limit their application to high-risk areas such as intersections, hills, steps and walkways. Or use calcium chloride deicing salts instead of sodium chloride.

Protect susceptible plants by constructing physical barriers of plastic, burlap, plywood or window screen over or in front of them. If there is room, plant trees away from the spray drift zone or areas where salt laden snow will be deposited.

Provide a place to store plowed snow away from lawns or shrubs. Try to plow before spreading salt, so that salt is not piled up with the snow.

Finally, Fizzell reminds us that the dissolved salt must eventually go somewhere. If it doesn't soak into the soil, it will get into storm sewers or streams, rivers and ponds where its effect will be felt by both plants and animals relying on these sources of water.

**James A. Fizzell, Senior Ext. Adviser
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HONEY AND YOUR HEALTH

Honey is sweet because of its content of sugar. Besides sugar it contains many of the minerals such as iron, copper, sodium, potassium, manganese, calcium, magnesium and phosphorous.

The color varies frequently because of the different flowers, clover, buckwheat and trees from which the nectar is gathered.

Honey is a natural, unrefined food.

Keep honey in a dry room at room temperature---never in a refrigerator.

To liquify honey that has granulated, place in a container of warm water. Never let honey container rest on the bottom of the water container.

Use light-flavored honey in the freezing of fruits.

Honey is an excellent source of quick energy for all ages.

Honey contains more carbohydrates than the same measure of sugar.

A cup of honey weighs 12 ounces, of which 1/5 is moisture. This is approximately 9 1/4 ounces of carbohydrates as compared with 7 ounces in a cup of sugar.

A general rule is to reduce the amount of liquid one-fourth cup for each cup of honey used in place of sugar.

To measure honey, first measure the shortening, then measure honey in the same measuring cup.

There are a number of varieties of honey on the market today: liquid, comb, chunk and cut comb; also, solid (granulated or fine crystallized).

Freezing does not injure the color or flavor of honey, but it may hasten granulation.

Cakes and cookies made with honey are noted for their keeping qualities.

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LAST WORD BEFORE ADJOURNMENT

A man went into a coma after receiving a bump on the head and did not awaken for twenty years. After getting his bearings, he called his broker. His hundred shares of AT&T were now worth \$8 million, his shares of General Motors were worth \$6 million, his holdings of Xerox had advanced to \$15 million, and so on. The man figured he must be at least a billionaire. Just then the telephone operator came on the line and stated, "Your three minutes are up sir. Will you please deposit 75 thousand dollars?"

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