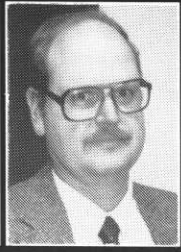


THE EXTENSION LINE

By Bob Mugaas
Minnesota Extension Service



Three forms of winter injury have been relatively common this spring and early summer. First, many of our deciduous shade trees and shrubs showed poor leafing out or did not leaf out at all. Any of these materials which were not sufficiently hardened off before the severe cold of last mid-December had portions or all of the plant killed. This severe cold occurred

'Mild' Winter Proves Harsh For Many Landscape Plants

have occurred to evergreens also, many were damaged or were killed by the relatively mild sunny and often windy conditions when the plants were desiccated by those conditions beyond

to both the roots and above ground stem portions. If the material has not leafed out by early summer, the tree or shrub has likely been killed and can be replaced.

The second type of injury affects our evergreen trees and shrubs. While some of the above-mentioned injury may

the point of being able to recover. Plants most commonly affected have been the lower growing junipers, arborvitae, small spruces and even some pines and yews.

As with the deciduous material, portions of, or the entire plant may have been affected. Again, those plants with brown needles and no sign of any new growth are dead and will not recover. Where only portions of the plant have been affected, the winter injury portions can be pruned out most any time. Maintaining adequate soil moisture during the warm, dry summer periods will help with recovery.

The third type of cold or winter injury occurred about mid-spring when we had a week or two of relatively warm, almost hot conditions; bud break and flowering occurred quite rapidly. This was followed by a rather sharp drop in temperature to below freezing. Injury symptoms showed up as brown or blackened new shoots and flowers. However, in most instances the trees and shrubs have initiated a new set of leaves and shoots and appear to be growing out of the injury. Trees commonly affected in the Twin Cities area have been Norway maples, green ash, lindens, some oaks and flowering crabs.

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