

into the particles. The captured moisture is then released from the water-absorbent as the rootzone dries, thus providing a consistent water source.

Water absorbents provide controlled water availability in the landscape, hanging baskets and nursery liners. They are also helpful when installing sod to minimize plant stress and maximize water efficiency. SuperSorb, a popular water absorbent among landscape managers, provides a rootzone reservoir that yields healthier, faster-growing plants while reducing irrigation costs.

"Watering is not a real attainable goal because of other priorities" at Sesame Place Park in Langhorne, Pa.,

says landscape manager Chris McCarron. So he uses SuperSorb • C in annual flower beds, topiary gardens and hanging flower baskets.

"We have no automatic irrigation system whatsoever; we're relegated to using what moisture's in the soil," McCarron says. "We till SuperSorb into annual beds that have been typically dry, and we're able to get a nice result in places where previously moisture was a problem. SuperSorb really works out well."

SuperSorb, which is available in two particle sizes, is applied during the installation of trees, shrubs, turf, planters, flower beds and landscape islands. They are fast and easy to use, whether installing ornamentals, sod

or seeding.

SuperSorb • C, a more coarse particle (1-2 mm), is easily incorporated into backfill or soil when transplanting ornamentals. SuperSorb • F, a fine particle (less than 0.5 mm), is broadcast and tilled two to three inches into the soil before transplanting sod or seeding.

"I used SuperSorb (F) when we installed the sod on our driving range," notes Bill Foust, superintendent at Pine Lake Golf Club in Anderson, S.C. "You can tell the difference. With SuperSorb, you get better growth, a better root system. And if you've got a better root system, you'll have better color."

"I'm real happy with the results."



Jim Moreau, chemicals supervisor at Church Landscape, readies evergreens for winter with FoliCote.

PROTECTING PLANTS FROM STRESS

There are some situations when a plant cannot absorb enough moisture through its root system to compensate for moisture loss through the foliage. In such cases, transpiration minimizers can help.

FoliCote, one kind of anti-transpirant, holds moisture in the leaves when plants are under stress caused by transplanting or transporting them,

or when the ground is frozen. FoliCote helps protect plants from moisture stress by maintaining the balance of moisture within the plant. It works by temporarily blocking leaf stomates, which reduces transpiration loss from the plant.

"I recommend it for routine maintenance of broadleaf evergreens, especially rhododendrons and azaleas,"

says Bob Hansen, a landscape architect from Westtown, N.Y. "In the past, our yews were desiccating and dropping all their needles. Now that we treat them with FoliCote, they look a lot better in the spring."

"We usually apply during the latter part of October or the first of November, and then sometimes re-apply around February, depending on (the harshness of) the weather."

FoliCote is a thin film of wax that stays flexible and looks natural. It can be used when transplanting or transporting trees, shrubs, sod, liners, foliage plants and ground covers, or for protecting established ornamentals and turfgrass from winter desiccation.

"We've been using FoliCote for five years now," says John Mitten of Church Landscape in Lombard, Ill. "We're strong believers in using it in early winter or late fall to guard against winter burn. We also use it in the summer to guard against moisture loss."

Mitten says FoliCote "makes the plant look a lot better and puts it in a lot better shape come springtime."

Since Church Landscape is so quality-oriented, they don't always charge for the FoliCote-ing service.

"Sometimes we do it just because it helps keep our plants alive," says Mitten. "It's a judgement call."

FoliCote is easy to handle. It won't clog sprayers and it washes out of spray equipment with soap and warm water. It is also less expensive—about half the cost—as competitive products.

In short, FoliCote is easy and inexpensive, a combination that's hard to beat.