

**All Gardens
Great & Small**
by
York Co.
Horticultural Agent
Tom Becker



and shrubs that are hardy in your area. Contact your local Extension office for a list of hardy landscape plants. Tender plants should only be planted in protected sites, such as courtyards or eastern exposures.

Evergreen shrubs lose considerable moisture all winter long caused by cold, dry winds and sun. A shield or screen can be erected to deflect drying winds. Use a snow fence or screen using wooden posts and burlap. Antidesiccant sprays also can prevent wind injury.

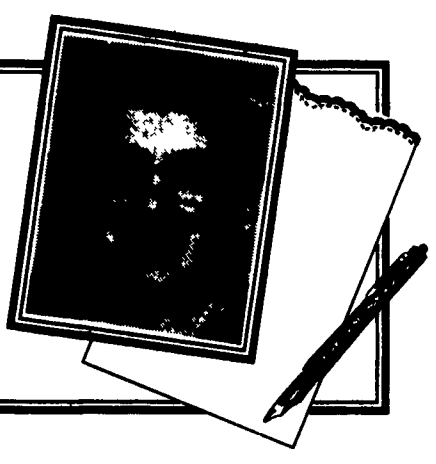
The weight of ice or heavy, wet snow damages plants. The weight of a thick accumulation of ice and snow can cause extensive limb breakage in weak-wooded trees, like poplar, ash, silver maple or willow.

When selecting trees and shrubs for the home landscape, select plants less prone to damage from snow. Oaks, crabapples, pines, spruces and firs generally suffer light damage from snow.

Brush off heavy accumulations of snow on evergreens with a broom. Sharply bent, ice-covered branches on small trees can be propped up to prevent breakage. When shoveling sidewalks and driveways, don't throw heavy, wet snow or ice on shrubs or small trees.

Next week we'll discuss deicing materials that damage plants. Any questions regarding the above article can be addressed to Tom Becker, Penn State Cooperative Extension at (717) 840-8408.

**Ida's
Notebook**
by
Ida Risser



Winter is my time for reading. I thoroughly read the newspaper and numerous magazines too. I like the "Reader's Digest" for the variety of articles that it contains.

Recently, I ordered quite a number of historical books from a local organization. Then I was told that the one that I wanted the most was unavailable. However, one is a record of pioneer settlers in southeastern Pennsylvania. Most of these people were Swiss and German.

They had been persecuted in Europe and William Penn's promise of religious freedom brought them to America. It is said that of the 50,000 who left in early 1700s only 30,000 arrived. It took 12 to 14 weeks to cross the Atlantic Ocean. However, one vessel took more than 24 weeks and the food

supply ran out so that they had to eat rats and mice. Most died and were buried at sea. The boat finally landed in New England instead of Philadelphia.

When the few remaining finally arrived at Conestoga in Lancaster County, their troubles were not over even though they had friends there. Many wild beasts lived in the area of panthers killed the swine. One farmer caught a wolf in his sheep pen and managed to kill it.

The Indians in the Conestoga area were not always friendly. Records show that they were cheated by white men and then retaliated. Drinking was also a problem among the Indians.

It is impossible to realize the great hardships that our ancestors endured!

Mid-Winter Tree Care
The winter of 1996 follows a mild, uneventful gardening season. This winter's record-breaking deep snow and ice storms are taking their toll on everyone's landscape. For example, animals feeding on stems and tree trunks under the snow may cause a great deal of tree damage this spring.

Low-temperature injury on plants happens to some extent every winter, but this year's deep snow is providing some insulation. But, many tender plants not buried in snow may not be hardy enough to withstand the cold. Low temperatures kill leaf and flower buds on these plants and destroy stems and branches not covered by snow. Surprisingly, some marginally hardy plants may be killed down to the soil even though they are protected by snow.

The extent of plant injury may depend on what kind of snow fell in your area. For example, the farm show week snow was light

and dry. This kind of snow filters down, through plants and helps protect them from the cold. But, heavy snow and ice storms break more stems and branches and even snap trunks of small trees. Deep snow forces rabbits and deer to forage on landscape plants, twigs and tree trunks.

This feeding injury on shrubs girdles branches three or four feet above the ground. The continuous snow cover also provides shelter for mice, which feed on lower stems and trunks and even on the root collars of plants. Pruning is the only remedy for plant parts that have been chewed, broken or killed by the cold.

Also, don't give up on a shrub that appears to have died all the way to the ground before spring. The plant may sprout again from the roots, later when mild weather comes.

The best way to prevent damage caused by deep snow and low temperatures is by selecting trees



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