

Winterizing Tender & Tropical Plants

Here are some tips to help us save some of our precious plants from turning to mush in the winter. When all else fails it is important to adopt an attitude of opportunity. If one plant dies it is a chance to buy a new one and we all know how we like to buy new plants. And don't feel bad for the plant. Every plant that dies becomes compost somewhere and ends up nourishing another plant. So you can think of your plant as not dying, but rather just changing form. It's called the circle of life.

Materials we can use to protect our plants in the garden:

- Burlap, frost protection fabric, blankets, hay, bark/compost, packing peanuts, bubble wrap, plastic (put some holes in it first), newspaper, etc.
- For structures to attach the above materials to, you can use the following:
 - o Chicken wire, hardware cloth, all sorts of stakes as in metal, wood or plastic, tomato cages, trash cans, etc.

Plant categories that might need protection:

- Tropicals must be brought inside the house or garage or a greenhouse
- Tender perennials can sometimes be left in the garden if protected
- Bulbs, corms, tubers, dahlias, cannas & tuberous begonias
- Broadleaf evergreens and selected shrubs and/or trees; Escallonia, Privet, Ceanothus, Nandina, Hebe, New Zealand Flax, Viburnum Spring Bouquet, Cistus, Camellia, Cotoneaster, etc.