



## WINTER TREE CARE

Dry air, low precipitation, little soil moisture and fluctuating temperatures are characteristics of fall and winter in much of Converse County. There often can be little or no snow cover to provide soil moisture, particularly from October through March. Trees and shrubs can be damaged if they do not receive supplemental water.

The result of long, dry periods during fall and winter is injury or death to parts of plant root systems. Affected plants may appear perfectly normal and resume growth in the spring using stored food energy. Plant may be weakened and all or parts may die in late spring or summer when temperatures rise. Weakened plants also may be subject to insect and disease problems.

### Plants Sensitive to Drought Injury

Woody plants with shallow root systems require supplemental watering during extended dry fall and winter periods. These include European white and paper birches; Norway, silver, red, Rocky Mountain and hybrid maples; lindens, alder, hornbeams, dogwood, willows and mountain ash. Evergreen plants that benefit include spruce, fir, arborvitae, yew, Oregon grape-holly, boxwood, and Manhattan euonymus. Woody plants benefit from mulch to conserve soil moisture.

Herbaceous perennials and ground covers in exposed sites are more subject to winter freezing and thawing. This opens cracks in soil that expose roots to cold and drying. Winter watering combined with mulching can prevent damage.

Lawns are also prone to winter damage. Newly established lawns, whether seed or sod, are especially susceptible to damage. Susceptibility increases for lawns with south or west exposures.

### Watering Guidelines

Water only when air temperatures are above 40 degrees F. Apply water at mid-day so it will have time to soak in before possible freezing at night. A solid layer (persisting for more than a month) of ice on lawns can cause suffocation or result in matting of the grass. Plants receiving reflected heat from buildings, walls and fences are more subject to damage. The low angle of winter sun makes this more likely in south or west exposures. Windy sites result in faster drying of sod and plants and require additional water. Lawns in warm exposures are prone to late winter mite damage. Water is the best treatment to prevent turf injury. Monitor weather conditions and water during extended dry periods without snow cover—one to two times per month.

### Newly Planted vs. Established Plants

Newly planted trees are most susceptible to winter drought injury. Woody trees generally take one year to establish for each inch of trunk diameter. For example, a two inch diameter (caliper) tree takes a minimum of two years to establish under normal conditions.

Trees obtain water best when it is allowed to soak into the soil slowly to a depth of 12 inches. Methods of watering trees include: sprinklers, deep-root fork or needle, soaker hose or soft spray wand. Apply water to many locations under the dripline and beyond if possible. If you use a deep-root fork or needle, insert no deeper than 8 inches into the soil. As a general survival rule, apply 10 gallons of water for each diameter inch of the tree. For example, a two-inch diameter tree needs 20 gallons per watering. Use a ruler to measure your tree's diameter.

Newly planted shrubs require more water than established shrubs that have been planted for at least one year. The following recommendations assume shrubs are mulched to retain moisture. In dry winters, all shrubs benefit from winter watering October through March. Apply 5 gallons two times per month for a newly planted shrub. Small established shrubs (less than 3 feet tall) should receive 5 gallons monthly. Large established shrubs (more than 6 feet) require 18 gallons on a

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**Deadline for 2012 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is set for January 13, 2012**

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by a combination of the following:

- Undertaking additional conservation activities to current management
- Improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land in all 50 States and the Caribbean and Pacific Islands Areas. The program is *available to all producers*, regardless of operation size, crops produced, or geographic location. CSP has proven to be one of the most popular conservation programs that the agency offers. In 2010 alone, 25.2 million acres had been enrolled into the program, about the size of Kentucky, improving soil, water, air quality and enhancing habitat for wildlife.

If you would like any additional information please contact your local NRCS office located in Douglas at (307) 358-3050 or if you would like please check out the National Website for the program at this link: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp> .

**SNOTEL UPDATE 1/3/2012**

Snow packs are not staring at the record levels we had last year. Most basins around the state are currently in the 75%-85% of average range. However, we are now in the driest months of the year and there is a lot of winter left to go.

\*SWE = snow water equivalents (amount of water in the snow pack)\*

<u>Snotel Site</u>	<u>SWE</u>	<u>% Average</u>
<b>Snowy Range</b>		
Brooklyn Lake	6.4	58
Sand Lake	10.7	70
N. French Creek	8.1	59
<b>Laramie Range</b>		
Casper Mountain	9.1	128
Reno Hill	7.7	115
Laprele Creek	4.4	80
Windy Peak	3.8	109



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE'S EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY**

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(Winter Tree Care Continued)

monthly basis. Decrease amounts to account for precipitation. Water within the drip line of the shrub and around the base.

Herbaceous perennial establishment periods vary. Bare root plants require longer to establish than container plants. Perennials transplanted late in the fall will not establish as quickly as plants planted in spring. Winter watering is advisable with late planted perennials located in windy or southwest exposures.

*Adapted from the Colorado State University Extension Fact Sheet No. 7.211*

### QUICK FACTS

- Water trees, shrubs, lawns, and perennials during prolonged dry fall and winter periods to prevent root damage that affects the health of the entire plant.
- Water only when air and soil temperatures are above 40 degrees F with no snow cover.
- Established large trees have a root spread equal to or greater than the height of the tree. Apply water to the most critical part of the root zone within the dripline.

**TREE ORDERS AND WINDBREAK COST-SHARE APPLICATIONS ARE STILL BEING ACCEPTED. CONTACT CONVERSE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT TODAY!**



**"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.  
The next best time is now."  
-- Chinese Proverb**

### Preventing Deer Damage

Although browsing deer are charming to watch, they can cause extensive damage by feeding on plants and rubbing antlers against trees. Damage is most commonly noticed in spring on new, succulent growth. Because deer lack upper incisors, browsed twigs and stems show a rough, shredded surface. Damage caused by rabbits, on the other hand, has a neat, sharp 45-degree cut. Rodents leave narrow teeth marks when feeding on branches. Deer strip the bark and leave no teeth marks.

It is difficult to move deer out of areas where they are not wanted. Not all strategies are practical for every homeowner. Frightening deer with gas exploders, provides only temporarily relief. More plants unattractive to deer, treating plants

Two types of deer repellents are repellents are applied directly to plants, placed in a problem area and repel by effective on less preferred plants. Apply freezing. Treat young trees completely. Treat to a height 6 feet above the max-top down. Hang or apply repellents at the protect. A spray of 20% whole eggs and Remove the white membrane attached to egg mixture is weather resistant but must repellents are questionable at best. Deer have been reported to eat soap bars hung in trees.



strobe lights, pyrotechnics or tethered dogs typically practical management strategies include selecting with deer repellents, netting and tubing, and fencing. contact repellents and area repellents. Contact causing them to taste bad. Area repellents are their foul odor. Repellents are generally more repellents on a dry day with temperatures above Older trees may be treated only on their new growth. imum expected snow depth. Deer browse from the bud or new growth level of the plants you wish to 80% water is one of the most effective repellents. the yolk to prevent clogging of the spray nozzle. The be reapplied in about 30 days. Home remedy

Tubes of Vexar netting around individual seedlings are an effective method to reduce deer damage to small trees. The material degrades in sunlight and breaks down in three to five years.

Adequate fencing to exclude deer is the only sure way to control deer damage. The conventional deer-proof fence is 8 feet high and made of woven wire. Electric fences also can be used. Electric fences should be of triple-galvanized, high-tensile, 13.5-gauge wire carrying a current of 35 milliamps and 3,000 to 4,500 volts. Fence must be marked with cloth strips, reflective tape or something similar. Otherwise, the deer may not see it in time and go right through it.

*Adapted from Colorado State University Extension Fact Sheet No. 6.520*

More detailed information on protecting your trees from deer damage is available at the Converse County Conservation District office.

**Converse County**  
**Conservation District**

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**ATTEND A CCCD BOARD MEETING**

The Converse County Conservation District holds Board Meetings the third Thursday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m. We welcome your input, ideas, questions, and concerns regarding our projects and programs! Meetings are open to the public pursuant to Wyoming Statute 16-4-403.

**DISTRICT CALENDAR:**

**January:**

10 -Douglas Headstart 2 pm

11 - Learning at the Library-Douglas 10:30 am

Douglas Boys and Girls Club 3:30 pm

12 - Learning at the Library-Douglas 10:30 am

13 - Douglas Headstart—9 and 11 am

16 - MLK/Wyoming Equality Day-**Office Closed**

19 - CCCD Board Meeting - 4:30 pm

25 - Lunch and Learn Workshop 12-1 pm

26 - Glenrock Boys and Girls Club 3:30 pm

**February:**

16 - CCCD Board Meeting—4:30 pm

20 - President's Day - **Office Closed**

**Sponsored by CCCD**

**LUNCH AND LEARN  
WORKSHOP**

**WEDNESDAY**

**JANUARY 25, 2012**

**12 P.M.– 1 P.M.**

**133 W. Center Street**

**Topic: Tree Planting  
For Wildlife**

This "Lunch & Learn" is a brown bag event. Please bring your lunch & beverage with you if you wish to eat.

Call CCCD at 358-3050 x 4 with any questions