

# Suggestions for Landscape Care Following Freeze Damage

Provided by Russell Landscape

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Uncharacteristically cold weather that we recently witnessed brings damages to the landscape that we have not seen in several years. Below are some tips to understand how the plants will respond to the freeze damage. There are steps we can take to promote recovery and minimize the impact of the freeze on the plants.

Many of the tropical and semi tropical plants in our landscape sustained damage, from melted foliage on the herbaceous plants to tip burn on the broadleaf evergreen shrubs. Citrus trees may be the hardest hit and some, that were not protected from the wind, may not recover from the damage.

A few of our most common herbaceous plants in the list below may be cut to the ground following the freeze. New foliage will regenerate from roots usually by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Plumbago  
Philodendron  
Ginger  
Crinum Lilies  
Flax Lilies  
Iris  
Agapanthus  
Lantana  
Bananas  
Bird of Paradise + many more

For Hydrangea and Hibiscus, it is best to leave the plants unpruned until the danger of freeze has past. For our area, this can be between late March and mid-April.

As bad as this burnt foliage looks, it serves a purpose in the natural defense of the plants against further damage. Winter has just begun and there will likely be another hard freeze before spring. The best method to protect the woody ornamental shrubs and trees from the next cold event is to leave the damaged growth on the plants.

Though they look terrible, the plants are still alive and will recover provided we do not prune and encourage new growth. New growth is an unfortunate possibility with the warmer temperatures we will reach later this week. New growth if hit by a freeze can cause irreversible damage.