

Cold Weather Plant Protection

Even in Texas we can see extended freezing conditions, and when we do we need to protect our plants and landscape fixtures. Plants that have high water content in their leaves can form ice crystals within their cells when exposed to temperatures below 32 degrees. These formations can lead to ruptured cell walls, and oftentimes will lead to the death of the plant.

Here are a few tips from your landscape experts at Embark to help protect your landscape fixtures and garden areas.

1. Minimally hydrate your plants and trees before the freeze! When plants are dry they will suffer more damage, and even the hardiest shrubs can suffer if their roots are dry.
2. Store your water hoses and cover your outdoor faucets.

3. If you have “frost-tolerant” plants be sure to cover them with a sheet or frost cloth. More fragile plants should be covered with a blanket or fleece cover. Be sure that these covers do not actually touch the plant. A cover that touches a plant may actually remove natural heat.
4. Decorate with small lights near the plants for extra warmth.
5. Use extra mulch to retain ground moisture, which will aid in preserving your perennials.

Even with these precautions, some plants, shrubs and trees may suffer some damage from extreme cold weather temperatures. When the weather gets warmer remove areas that may have been damaged during cold weather stints.

