

Tips for Dealing with Snow-Damaged Plants

Warmer weather and melting snow are revealing damage caused by heavy snow accumulation to many trees, plants, and shrubs. The nation's lawn and landscape association, the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET), offers homeowners tips for dealing with damaged plants.

Don't remove snow. Let it melt. If the snow is heavily packed down, it is better to let the snow melt than to try to dig out your plants. You can do more harm than good.

Prune broken limbs. If a limb of a shrub, bush, or tree is broken, prune it as soon as possible. Make a clean cut that will make it harder for insects and diseases to enter the stressed plant.

Remove fallen debris. By removing fallen debris and limbs from around your plants, insects and diseases won't be attracted to that area.

Look for signs of salt damage. In the spring, look for signs of salt damage. Grass near the road may be stunted and yellow, and trees and shrubs might display yellow leaves with brown leaf margins. The only way to get rid of extra salt is to flush it out with plenty of water. You can also add organic materials to flowerbeds to counteract salt damage.

Cut off dead limbs. Some plants may have partially survived. In the spring, assess your plants and prune dead limbs.

For more information, or to find a lawn care and landscape professional, log on to LandcareNetwork.org/findaprofessional or call the PLANET office at (800) 395-2522.