



January 13, 2010

Mr. Steve Inglis - President
Bristol Management Company
1930 Commerce Lane
Jupiter, FL 33458

Subject: Cold Damage to Landscaping

Dear Steve,

Everyone at OneSource in Jupiter wishes you a Healthy and Prosperous New Year. We certainly have started 2010 in an unprecedented record breaking manner in terms of the harsh cold we have experienced over the past 11 days. I'm writing in regards to this situation and specifically to make you aware of the resulting damage you may see over the coming days and weeks.

This current cold weather is the most severe we have experienced in 20 years. Multiple nights of freezing, and in some cases sub-freezing temperature have caused major stresses to be placed on your landscape plants and trees. You may have already noticed the most tender plants such as annuals and succulent tropical foliage exhibiting extreme defoliation and/or death. These are the most obvious signs of cold damage, but not the only results you will see. Many plants including trees and palms may take several weeks to show signs of damage. Furthermore, recovery from the cold may take months for some plants and trees. Certain palms for instance may take 3 months or more to show signs of damage and it's possible to see some palms dying at that time for no other apparent reason. Please understand that our landscape professionals know the stresses placed on your plants and will be taking the proper actions to correct the problems. These actions may include delaying normal pruning or fertilization events so that further stress is not induced on the plant. We are especially careful at this point in time not to make hard pruning cuts with the threat of potential freezing temperatures still alive. Pruning does cut away dead plant tissue, but it also stimulates new growth. If such new growth is stimulated at a time when another freeze occurs, even greater damage can be suffered by the plant.

In addition to the impact which we will see in your communities, there are similar losses and damage in many of the South Florida nurseries. Most of the large wholesale nurseries are located inland where temperature were the lowest, and many suffered losses to their various tropical plant crops. In addition, as you would imagine, the demand for plant material will increase significantly in the next few months, and with that the price of goods will also rise. I would expect an increase in plant prices over the next several months to possibly a year due to the sudden increase in demand brought on by the hard freeze.



So what can a homeowner do to help? If another freeze is threatening, it is best to water your plants several hours before, making sure to soak the roots well while not over-watering the foliage. Then cover your tender annuals and tropical plants with a landscape cloth to protect them from frost. Make sure and remove the covering in the morning before temperatures climb too high. Above all, be patient. It will take several weeks for your landscape to recover from damage, but in most cases it will do so successfully.

Sincerely,

Tim Osborne – Branch Manager
FNGLA Certified Landscape Contractor
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