



WONDERFUL WINTER WEATHER!

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It's hard to complain about winter when we have temperatures in the 50's, or even 60's, on a daily basis. And snow??? It comes quickly and is usually gone just as quickly. We may love it, but it's no picnic for our landscapes.

Roots need moisture even in winter when there's no active growth to be seen. Extended periods of winter drought can damage roots to the point that the plant may not survive the following season. Have you ever had a newly planted tree leaf out in the spring, then decline rapidly after that? Stored reserves got it off to a leafy start, but the loss of roots due to winter desiccation made it unable to sustain that growth.

So what do you do? Water, water, water! New plantings are more susceptible just because they don't yet have an extensive root system, but all trees, shrubs, perennials and lawns need help. Early on a day when temperatures are at least 40, pull the hose out, and soak everything. This means, for trees, soaking the ground to a depth of about 12 inches within the branch dripline. Do this about every two or three weeks if things continue to be dry. Your plants will thank you!