

## **PLANT DAMAGE ALERT: Wind Burn & Rabbit Damage**



**Problem: Windburn-** caused by severe winter cold and high winds. Commonly found on evergreen trees and shrubs in early spring due to a loss of moisture from significantly frozen root zone.

**Solution:** Once the ground has thawed, lightly trim and shake off the browned foliage. Next, apply 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of a bag of **mushroom compost** around the base of each affected plant and cultivate the amendment to loosen the soil. Lastly, apply Andersons 12-16-6 Fertilizer with **Humic DG™** to encourage new growth (1/4<sup>th</sup> cup per plant). Miracid fertilizer by Miracle Grow can also be applied every 2-3 weeks during the Spring to stimulate growth. Once the ground thaws you can begin watering at the base (30 seconds for shrubs, 1-2 minutes for larger trees). Repeat watering 2-3 times a week throughout the spring. Evergreens can take 1-2 seasons to show improvement due to their slow growing nature. Prevent wind burn by adding extra mulch around the plants in the fall and installing silt fencing around them.

**Problem: Rabbit Damage-**caused by extremely cold temperatures and frozen ground water supplies forcing rabbits to search for other means of hydration such as through plant stems.

**Solution:** Remove any jagged or severely damaged branches from the plant. Also, make clean pruning cuts to more intact stems. After the ground has thawed apply 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of a bag of **mushroom compost** around the base of each affected plant and cultivate the amendment to loosen the soil. Lastly, apply Andersons 12-16-6 Fertilizer with **Humic DG™** to encourage new growth (1/4<sup>th</sup> cup per plant). Rabbit Damage is difficult to control as chemical treatments have shown little effectiveness. Try constructing a small fence in the fall around commonly affected bushes. Be careful not to place it too close to the bushes to prevent injury of the bark.

**FIND ALL THESE PLANT CARE PRODUCTS AT:**



11606 179<sup>TH</sup> STREET MOKENA, IL 60448