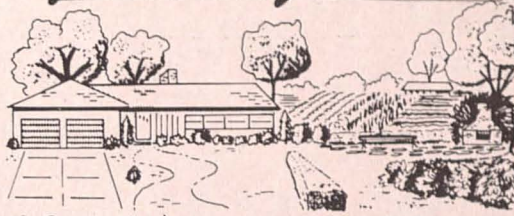


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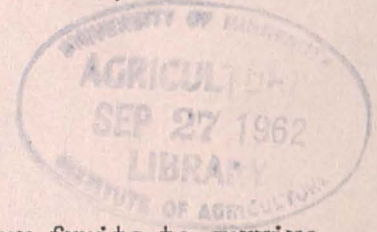
Yard 'n' Garden

Prepared and distributed
by the Minnesota Agricultural
Extension Service



C. Gustav Hard Orrin C. Turnquist
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA • ST. PAUL 1, MINNESOTA

For use during week of
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WINTER PROTECTION OF FRUITS

Minnesota winters are usually too severe for many of our fruits to survive without some form of protection. Apples and pears can suffer from sunscald or damage from rabbits and mice. Strawberries and raspberries may be injured by extremely low temperatures or by alternate freezing and thawing.

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To prevent sunscald, fasten boards to the southwest side of the trunk of large apple trees. Wrap the trunk of small fruit trees with burlap to prevent splitting of the bark on the southwest side of the trunk because of sunscald.

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To protect young fruit trees from rodents, place a cylinder of old window screening or quarter-inch hardware cloth around the tree, up to the lowest branch. To allow for tree growth, the diameter of the screen should be about 6 inches. Be sure to fasten the overlapped edges securely with wire. Push the cylinder into the soil about 2 inches to hold it in place.

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After strawberries have been exposed to one or two frosts, but before freezing weather, apply a mulch of 2 inches of straw or marsh hay over the plants. Fruit buds are injured by temperatures as low as 20° F. It's usually a good idea to apply the mulch around Nov. 1 before cold weather sets in.

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Bend the canes of raspberry bushes over and cover the tips with dirt. You can hold the canes in place with pieces of wire shaped into arches and pushed into the ground. Covering the entire cane with soil is insurance against winter injury and rabbit damage.

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If you have tender varieties of grapes, prune them, lay them on the ground and cover them with soil. Soak the soil thoroughly before the ground freezes.

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