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# Yard 'n' Garden

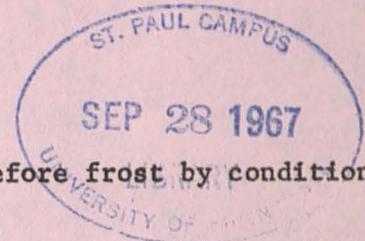
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## PROTECTING ORNAMENTALS FOR WINTER

Winter protection of landscape plants often begins long before frost by conditioning the plants.

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You should water evergreens thoroughly so moisture is readily available during the closing weeks of fall. Don't fertilize evergreens or roses at this time because it is possible to force new growth which is extremely sensitive to winter injury.

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The flower border can best be protected over winter by providing a winter mulch of 6 to 8 inches of marsh hay. Clean straw or dry leaves may also be used. A snow-catch at the back of the border will help to gather snow and provide additional mulch material.

\* \* \* \*

Carry chrysanthemums over winter by digging the clumps and placing them in cold frames. Or dig, pot and store them in a root cellar with a temperature below 40°F. or leave them in place in the garden and mulch them with garden hay or straw.

\* \* \* \*

Mice and rabbits can cause considerable injury to the landscape during the winter season. Protect young trees and shrubs against these rodents by wire guards made of hardware cloth. Place guards around the shrub to a height of at least 2 feet and up to the main branches. Place prunings of fruit trees and other ornamentals nearby to help divert rodents from chewing on the materials themselves. Rabbit and mice repellants are available from your local garden center.

\* \* \* \*

Mountain ash and some species of maple trees are subject to sun scald. This can be prevented by shading the south side of the tree with a wide board. You might want to paint the bark white so enough light is reflected to reduce the sun scald.

\* \* \* \*

You can successfully winterize roses by laying them over on the ground and covering them with 2 to 3 feet of leaves. Or you can protect them by placing a soil mound at the base of the plant and then using 2 to 3 feet of marsh hay or leaf cover over the surface.