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YARD 'N' GARDEN

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EXTENSION  
HORTICULTURISTS

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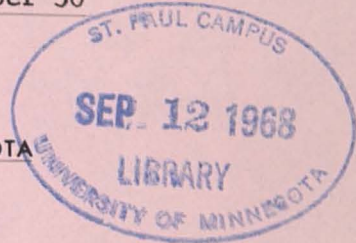
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WINTER PROTECTION OF FRUITS

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Protect your fruit plantings before the first frost comes. Water the plantings thoroughly so they have plenty of moisture during the closing weeks of fall.

\* \* \* \*

To protect a tree from sunscald, shade the southwest side of the main trunk and large branches. Sunscald, a type of winter injury, normally occurs in late winter on the southwest side of fruit trees -- especially apple trees. The bark often splits and wood-rotting fungi enter and weaken or even kill the tree.

\* \* \* \*

Prevent mice and rabbits from girdling young trees by enclosing the base of the trunk with a cylinder of 3/4-inch mesh hardware cloth. Make the cylinder at least 6-8 inches in diameter and extend it from about an inch below the soil to the first branch.

\* \* \* \*

Apply a 2 or 3-inch mulch of straw or marsh hay over the entire strawberry planting after the plants have been subjected to a few good frosts. Strawberry blossom buds for the spring crop are formed in the fall. If the buds are exposed to temperatures as low as 20 degrees F., the yield of good quality berries will be reduced unless the plants are mulched.

\* \* \* \*

Raspberry plantings frequently suffer from winter injury. Bend the canes down and cover them with soil in the fall, before ground freezes. The canes of tender grapes should be laid down and covered with soil each fall.

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