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Department of Information  
and Agricultural Journalism  
Institute of Agriculture  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

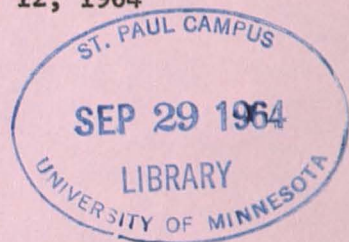
# Yard 'n' Garden



C. GUSTAV HARD      ORRIN C. TURNQUIST  
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ST. PAUL, MINN. 55101

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## WINTER PROTECTION OF PERENNIALS

Winter protection means several things. First of all, it means taking the necessary precautions to protect plants against the climate. Second, protection is needed against rodents, and, third, it is needed against certain variations in weather during the winter season.

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Most of our perennials will benefit from winter protection. Winter protection begins when the flower border is first planted. A shrub background will help to break the winds and provide a snow catch. Snow is one of the best winter protection materials we have. Take advantage of it.

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It's a good idea to use a winter mulch to protect ornamentals. Such mulch materials as marsh hay, straw, alfalfa and cornstalks all help to insulate against extremely cold temperatures. These mulches will also help to control soil temperature late in the spring when there is alternating freezing and thawing. Apply the mulch 6 to 8 inches deep over the flowering plants after the ground has begun to freeze in the fall. Remember that a wet mulch can cause severe damage through suffocation and added disease problems.

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To keep mice from being a problem in the border, use a bait. Cut both ends from a tin can and place a small quantity of poison bait inside the can so that other animals cannot get to it.

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Trees and shrubs are prone to be damaged by rabbits or rodents should be protected with hardware cloth if possible. Smaller trees can be wrapped with heavy-duty aluminum foil to provide protection. Garden centers and hardware stores also sell chemical rabbit repellents which can be used.

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