



## Healthy Garden Tips

### Freeze Protection Simplified

By Dean Donaldson, Farm Advisor Emeritus

1. Throw a blanket or sheet, etc. over the plant. Remove when sunny. Recover each night. 'Engineer' types can build a cage (OK, but not necessary). Expect burnt leaves and twigs but plant will be OK. Lightweight fabric or woven cover is superior to plastic.
2. Citrus – fruits will be damaged. Damaged fruit will dehydrate inside. Within a few days following a frost, fruit should be picked and squeezed. You can freeze juice for later use. Do not prune until re-growth is visible next spring.
3. Supplemental heat from small wattage bulbs can help reduce frost damage. Use 15 watt, 20-25 watt (outdoor-type) bulb to avoid leaf burn from light bulbs. Outdoor Christmas lights (larger, old-fashioned) work well if +15 watts (smaller, LED Christmas lights do not release heat). Place bulb in lower tree canopy and keep it lit all night until temperature is above 32° F. Be sure to also use outdoor-type extension cord and fixture.
4. Do not prune damaged parts until after plants re-grow, usually in April or May.