

Pinewinds News You Can Use!

News from your Landscape Committee

It certainly is heartbreaking to see the damage done to so many plantings throughout the community with the recent cold snap and frost. The front entrance looks straggly and will, unfortunately remain so until mid-March when we can assess the damage and take steps to prune and/or replace. Thanks in advance for your patience

Please see the flyer below from the University of Florida to help you deal with your own personal plants and shrubs on your property.

AFTER THE FREEZE: What Homeowners Should Do



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Recent freezing weather can damage plants in our landscapes, but not all damage is permanent. Some plants may look worse before they get better. The steps below explain what homeowners should do after a freeze to help plants recover and avoid causing more damage.

DO THIS

Check Water Needs

- Cold, windy weather can dry plants out
- Water plants to help thaw soil and rehydrate roots
- Container plants may need extra attention

Be Patient

- Some cold damage shows up days or weeks later
- New spring growth will show what's truly alive

DON'T DO THIS YET

Don't Rush Pruning

- Avoid heavy pruning right after a freeze. Cold stratify seeds before planting
- Cutting too early can remove living tissue and stimulate vulnerable new growth

Don't Fertilize

- Wait until warmer weather and active growth return

WHEN YOU DO PRUNE

- Scratch the bark lightly with a fingernail
 - Green = alive
 - Brown/black = dead
- Prune back only to healthy tissue
- Dead, brown leaves can be removed once fully dry

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

- Delayed or no spring bud break
- Weak or uneven growth
- Branch dieback over time

Some plants recover slowly after severe cold – patience is key!



Tropical evergreen after the freeze on Jan 31-Feb 2, 2026, at the St. Lucie County Extension Office

For more information, please reach out to your [county Extension office](#).

This fact sheet was adapted from: [Cold Protection of Landscape Plants](#)

LAWNS

- Brown turf after a freeze is often normal dormancy
- Avoid fertilizing until spring green-up



Pinewinds Book Club is up and running! Interested?

Contact Anne Harkins for info at: harkinsanne@yahoo.com



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