Heavy Rain and Plant Damage

Today on Gardening in a Minute: heavy rain and plant damage.

Florida is known for its sudden downpours, especially in the summertime. Rain brings needed moisture but can also cause problems in the landscape.

Heavy rains can damage tender plants, wash away mulch, and erode soil from around plant roots.

Injured or dead plant parts should be pruned immediately after a storm to allow the plant to recover.

If the soil is really saturated after a heavy rain and you’re worried about root rot, help the soil dry out by removing the mulch from around plantings for a few weeks.

Wait to fertilize until next season. Fertilizer won’t help your plants recover any faster, and the next heavy rain will wash it right off and into the nearest water body.

Finally, remove any debris so that it won’t pose a threat during future storms.

For more information about rain damage and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.