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Treating Cold-Damaged Plants

Today on Gardening in a Minute: treating cold-damaged plants.

January and February are the coldest months in Florida, and plants can be damaged by low temperatures. But with your help, cold-damaged plants can often recover.

After a freeze, see if your plants are dry. Even injured plants need water.

Don't prune cold-damaged plants right away. The dead foliage looks bad, but will help insulate plants from further injury.

In the spring, assess the extent of the damage by scraping the bark with your fingernail. Cold-injured wood will be black or brown under the bark.

To be certain where to prune, wait until plants begin to sprout new growth. Once the danger of frost has passed, an application of fertilizer can help speed recovery.

So don't give up on your plants! They might surprise you.

For more information about cold 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.

your solution for Florida-friendly gardening