



The Plant Professionals

Freeze Protection

Protection of tender plants from cold damage is somewhat misunderstood subject, but we can cover a few basic principles here. First, "bagging" or "wrapping" your plants is not the most effective way to preserve your plants. Rather, you should "tent" plants for the best protection. The earth beneath your tender plants remains relatively warm after a sudden drop in air temperature and will radiate heat up into your "tent"; likewise, water temperatures will be well above freezing, and watering the ground thoroughly before a hard freeze will help protect roots in the ground or in pots and will increase the heat or "thermal mass" available to protect your plants. Either plastic sheeting or cloth sheets can be effective covers. Plastic is available in large sheets at little cost, but may burn foliage touched by the sheet, and needs to be removed before plants overheat the following day. Tall potted plants should be tipped over and covered. For further information on temperature tolerances of different plant varieties or different methods, call us at the nursery any day from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.