

Cold injury

Cold injury should not be confused with browning of evergreen foliage. The winter injury described here is the death of entire stems of either evergreen or deciduous trees or shrubs.

Plants affected by this type of injury often try to leaf out or even flower in the spring. Soon after the first hot weather occurs, however, they wilt and die. Often very little of the plant will try to leaf out. After the new shoots die, shrubs may send up new, more vigorous shoots from the base. These can be used to renew the plant. Trees will also try to grow, then die, but there may be no regrowth.

If the winter-injured plant is a named cultivar, it may have been budded or grafted onto a less desirable rootstock. New shoots on these plants may be coming from the rootstock. This is especially common on roses. A plant renewed from such shoots is often inferior to the cultivar, so it is best to replace it.