

# Shenandoah Civic Club Minutes

March 9, 2021

- **Call to Order**
  - The meeting was called to order at 6 pm by Presiding Officer Debbie Pilcher
- **Roll Call**
  - Members present at tonight's meeting
    - Pam Sorich
    - Betty Lahiri
    - Lauren Munn
    - Charron Cales
    - Sharon Siri
    - Tami Webb
    - Barbara Breeding
    - Dixie McLeod
    - **Secretary:** Wendy Bradt
    - Jon Samuelson: New Attendee
    - Sgt. Joel Gordon
    - **Councilman:** Charlie Bradt
    - **Councilman:** Ted Fletcher
    - **Presiding officer:** Debbie Pilcher
- **Approval of minutes from February 2021 meeting**
  - Motion: Betty Lahiri
  - Second: Dixie McLeod
  - Vote was unanimous and the minutes were approved
- **Chair Reports**
  - **Arbor Day: March 6, 2021**
    - Arbor Day is a City event with the City Public Works department and the Civic Club participates in assistance with the event. There is a plant

exchange, a children's craft and different vendors participate to offer their expertise as residents begin to plant their spring gardens or with this year recover from a rare winter storm.

- Covid protocols were still in place with this event.
  - Due to the recent winter storm we did not get a lot of participants that we normally have with the plant exchange. We did have a few residents bring in plants for the plant exchange.
  - We did have a variety of different seed samplings from milkweed to mixed seeds. The vendors provided samplings of goodies from children's coloring books and toy cars, hand sanitizer, masks, pens.
  - We changed up the children's craft project this year. We made a tree with the materials for the craft to honor Arbor Day. The children got to make whatever kind of tree they wished to make with the markers, and stickers as well for extra embellishment to their craft. Then they were able to take their project home. We had a small group of participants and some parents offering great compliments to our having changed up the activity for this year. (See attached handout of the craft item)
  - The Woodlands Garden Club participated in our event. President Betty Lahiri, a Shenandoah Civic Club member, and a group of wonderful ladies were on hand and provided some great information for anyone who wanted some insight to starting their spring gardens or just to determine if their plants were salvageable after the winter storm...
- **Garage Sale:** Gwen Quinn
    - Gwen was not present at the meeting but from email conversations with her at the time of the meeting we had at least 10 signed up to participate. This is not a very high number and we did bring into question with discussion if we should continue with this event.
  - **Easter Egg Hunt:** Pam Sorich

- The Easter egg hunt will be Saturday, March 20, from 10 am to 12 noon at the City Park.
- Covid measures will be in place for the event. Staff will be required to wear masks and residents are recommended to wear them but will not be mandated to.
- We will have the train back as a means for people to be taken to and from their vehicles at the pool parking lot to the park before the event starts and at the end of the event.
- We do ask that all residents that wish to participate in the egg hunt to be there at 9:45 am as we do begin this event first thing. The age groups for the hunt are: Gentle Touch (Special Needs, 0-2), 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-14. Also asking parents to bring a basket or something for their child to use when collecting the eggs. There will be bags provided for your child if they do not bring a basket or something to collect eggs in. There will also be two special eggs in each age group area. If you do find the special egg amongst your eggs you can exchange it for a special Easter basket prize related to your specific age group. There will be a total of 7,000 eggs for the hunt with 1,000 filled with Candy, and 3,000 filled with a toy, and 3,000 filled with stickers.
- We will also have a snack from Dunkin Donuts as well. We will be handing out bags with 5 assorted flavor of donut holes. We will also have bottles of water on hand. The bags will be handed out by a Civic Club member until the supply is gone. Popcorn will also be provided as well.
- The Shenandoah Police Department will have special coloring books and goodies for the children.
- We will have some entertaining things for you and your child's enjoyment as well. We will have balloon artists and face painters as we have had regularly. Also there will be Bunny and me pictures. You will be able to

take pictures on your own with your cell phones. Also we will have a Fairy on stilts as well roaming amongst the crowd.

- **Old Business**

- There was no old business to discuss

- **New Business**

- Easter egg stuffing

- The Civic Club was supposed to stuff eggs with candy for the Easter event but the City held a staff meeting and filled the eggs for us when they finished. So we do owe them a huge thank you from the Civic Club.

- Yard of the Month

- The Yard of the month formerly being handled by Gwen Quinn is now being taken over by a committee group. Those in that committee are Sharon Siri, Marilyn Poppert, and Norma McGee. They will choose a member and bring to the meeting each month their winner.
- Due to the recent winter storm we will not be starting this up again until April. This way gives residents time to clean up their yards from any damaged plants or other vegetation and prepare their yards a little more.

- **Police Brief:** Sgt. Joel Gordon

- Sergeant Gordon gave the Civic Club updates on happenings around Shenandoah and answered any questions or concerns members of the Civic Club had.
- The Montgomery County Safety Expo will be May 1 from 10 am to 1 pm at the Woodforest Bank Stadium.

- **Other March activities**

- Other events for the Month of March:
  - March 13 from 8 am to 3 pm is the Community Garage Sale
  - March 20 from 9:45 to 12 pm is the Easter Egg Hunt

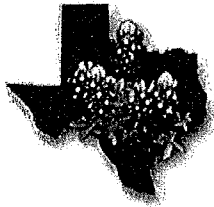
- March 27 from 8 am to noon or until bins are full is the Trash Bash at the City Public Works area.
- **Next Meeting:** April 13, 2021
  - The Quest school principal will be in attendance at our next meeting to inquire how their school can be involved with our events or any activity within the city and how we can help them as well.
- **Adjourn**
  - Motion: Betty Lahiri
  - Second: Lauren Munn
  - Meeting was adjourned at 7 pm

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Wendy Bradt: Civic Club Secretary

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Date Approved



# PLANTanswers

An archive of gardening information assembled by Dr. Jerry Parsons



Plant Answers > Dealing with Freeze Damage on Plants by Greg Grant and Neil Sperry

## Dealing with Freeze Damage on Plants

Greg Grant, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
County Extension Agent-Horticulture  
Smith County  
Tyler, Texas 75702  
903-590-2980  
(February 27, 2021)

There is no way of currently knowing the extent of the damage or whether your plants will survive or not. It will take weeks or months to know, if or when, they start to resprout and what part of the plant resprouts.

1. Evergreen Woody Shrubs, Vines, and Groundcovers (Asian jasmine, azalaeas, camellias, confederate jasmine, eleagnus, fatsia, fig ivy, gardenias, Indian hawthorns, ligustrum, loquat, loropetalum, oleander, pittosporum, privet, roses, sasanquas, sweet olive, Texas sage, wax myrtle, etc.): Wait until they start to resprout from the existing stems or the ground, then cut away dead and leave what is alive and growing. There will most likely be no blooms this year and all old foliage will most likely fall off. Many of these plants are from milder parts of southern Asia and simply aren't used to zero degrees. Most broadleaf evergreens prefer milder climates while narrow leafed evergreens and deciduous plants are more adapted to colder climates.
2. Palm Trees and Sago "Palms": Many will be damaged or dead but do nothing but cut off the dead fronds for now. It will take months to see if they resprout. Historically the only palms reliably cold hardy here in northeast Texas and the only ones to survive zero degrees in the 1980s were Mexican/Texas sabal palms, Brazoria palms, dwarf palmettos, and a number of windmill palms. All others froze and died. Sagos aren't true palms, are less cold hardy, and back then were only cold hardy from I-10 south.
3. Perennials: Cut away the dead mush (wait until April 1 if you can stand it) and wait till mid spring to see what comes up. Many perennials are cold hardy but many we grow in the South are more tender and tropical (confederate rose, Mexican heather, Mexican petunia, and lots more) and may not make it when the ground freezes.
4. St. Augustine and Centipede lawns: There will possibly be dead areas and freeze damage. Mow as normal but avoid pre-emergent herbicides which can damage injured grass. Do not fertilize until nights are warmer in mid-April and do not water until June, July, and August, once per week, one inch per application. Watering in the spring contributes to gray leaf spot and brown patch. Most folks water too often and cause their own problems.
5. Crapemyrtles: There will be different amounts of damage on different cultivars in different microclimates. Don't do anything until they start to sprout then cut back to where new growth is occurring, even it's at the ground. They will grow back vigorously. In the 1980s Lagerstroemia fauriei froze and died, 'Natchez' and many hybrids froze to the ground, and there were varying degrees of damage to most older indica cultivars.
6. Fruit trees: Most are cold hardy except citrus, pomegranates, olives, and figs which will have varying degrees of damage and death. Once again, do nothing for now and prune back to live growth when they sprout. Open flowers and fat buds on blueberries, peaches, and pears froze but the trees should be alive and sprout as normal. Unfortunately fruit production will be limited. I'd think blackberries will be fine.
7. If plants are green and not withered, they are most likely fine. It all has to do with their evolutionary and geographical genetics as to whether they can survive zero degrees. Just because they are brown doesn't mean they are dead. It's possible that the stems or roots may still be alive. Give them time.
8. Most deciduous plants will be fine although they may have lost their bloom buds. Spireas appear fine. Mophead and lace cap hydrangeas may have different degrees of damage. Once again, only prune away what is dead once they sprout. Oakleaf hydrangeas are probably fine.
9. Most conifers including pines and cedars will be fine although they may be damaged and broken from snow and ice. Saw off the broken branches close to the trunk or nearest major branch wherever you can.
10. Bulbs (corms, rhizomes, etc.): Although the foliage has been damaged and many blooms lost on spring bulbs, most should survive with possibly reduced bloom next year due to less foliage this year. I wouldn't be surprised if many heirlooms produced more foliage and bloomed almost normal next year. Note due to their geographic genetics, narcissus are the least hardy, jonquils more hardy, and daffodils the most hardy. Some daffodils may still bloom. However anything that already had buds won't bloom this year. Tulips seem OK. Spider lilies (lycoris) and oxblood lilies lost their foliage but will be fine with possibly reduced bloom this fall. Cannas and Hymenocallis may have rhizome and bulb damage if the ground froze.

11. Live oaks: All foliage will be lost which would have been lost when the new foliage came out in spring anyway. There however may be varying degrees of damage including death like there was in Dallas during the 1980s when all the bark eventually popped off, but once again nothing you can do right now but take a cold tater and wait. Live oaks are coastal trees not used to zero degree weather. Friend Neil Sperry says they'll be fine so we'll all hope for the best!
12. Herbs: Many herbs like rosemary and lavender will be dead and will need to be replaced, certainly those in pots which are always less cold hardy than those in the ground. Some rosemary cultivars are more cold hardy than others but very few can survive zero degrees. Most herbs are Mediterranean and prefer mild winters and dry soils.
13. Pines: Pine in some areas have turned brown. This is mostly likely just freeze damage to the needles but the buds and stems should be fine. Our native pines along with all our other native plants have learned to survive periodic Arctic blasts. Note that nature made sure that short leaf pine occurred further north, loblolly pine with medium length needles occurred farther south, and longleaf pine occurred the most south. It's all about holding up to ice and snow but all have always been cold hardy here for thousands of years.
14. Vegetables: Most were frozen and will need to be replanted including onions, potatoes and cool season greens. It's still too early for tomatoes and peppers and I wish folks would quit putting them out for sale. Never plant them before March 15.
15. Native Plants and Wildflowers: Most are perfectly fine as they evolved to deal with periodic Arctic blasts and blue northers.
16. House plants (aloe vera, Christmas cactus, croton, diffenbachia, peace lily, philodendron, ponytail palm, sanseveria, etc.): If they were left out outside, they should be dead, even if covered. Count it as a minor miracle if not. These plants aren't designed to withstand 32 degrees much less 0!
17. Succulents (Agaves, opuntia, manfredas, yuccas, sedums, etc.): Some of these guys are very tender and will be dead while others are more-cold hardy and will be fine. When it warms up and the mush dries, peel it away and see what comes back.
18. Tropicals (allamanda, bananas, bougainvillea, elephant ears, esperanza, mandevillea, purple fountain grass, tropical hibiscus, etc.): Cut away the dead mush and stems (wait until April 1 if you can stand it) and wait till mid spring to see what comes up. The general rule on tropicals is if the air freezes the tops die and if the ground freezes the whole plant dies. Those left outside in pots are probably dead and should be replaced in April/May when the nights warm up.
19. Bamboo: Most have at least top damage. Some, like timber bamboo are cold sensitive and will be dead; some types like golden bamboo and Green Goddess will most likely freeze to the ground and resprout, and a few like our native switch cane will be unscathed. All you can do is cut the frozen dead stems to the ground now and wait to see what comes up. You'll know by early summer whether they are growing back or not.
20. Ornamental Grasses: With the exception of purple fountain grass, lemon grass, napier grass, and vetiver, most are cold hardy and will sprout back from the crown. Go ahead and cut them back to the crowns now and wait until early summer to see what comes back.
21. Genetics, provenance, and acclimation: Cold hardiness has much to do with the genetics and evolution of a species (Who's your daddy and where are you from?); what part of the historic range the seed source was from (live oak seed from colder Virginia or live oak seed from warmer South Louisiana); and how warm it was and how actively the plant was growing before it froze (plants freeze much more easily when they are growing than when they are dormant). This explains why National Arboretum crapemyrtles never froze in Washington D.C. and more northern climates but have frozen numerous times in Texas over the years.

There is absolutely nothing you can do to speed up this freeze damage/healing process. Watering, pruning, or fertilizing won't make it happen any quicker. Most work now is purely cosmetic. The solution is warm nights, warm days, and longer day lengths. Once the plants start to grow (or not), we will know the answer and what parts to cut away or which plants to replace. Some damage doesn't show up for months and some plants that appear dead come back to life from the root system. Some plants with green stems like roses will show what's dead even quicker and can be cut back sooner.

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More information on dealing with the freeze damage from Neil Sperry's GARDENS:

- Many plants lost only leaves. Their stems are still pliable, green and moist if you scratch them with your thumbnail. Those plants will come back. Only a little cosmetic trimming will be all that is needed.

Asian jasmine has been in the Sperry landscape for 30 years. This is at least the 5th time that it has frozen back like this. I'll trim it off near ground level. It will start coming back strongly in a few weeks.

Oleanders freeze to the ground frequently in North Texas, less often in South Texas. They always come back.

- Some plants' twigs and stems are dried and brittle already. Those tissues are probably lost and can be trimmed away. Start at the top of the plant and trim progressively down until you hit moist, green tissue, even if you end up cutting back to the ground. Oleanders are the classic example here.

If Star jasmine stems have already ruptured; the plants will probably be lost. Most likely entire plant has been killed.

- The bark and trunks of some plants have ruptured and split vertically (parallel to the sides of the branches). Those branches are probably dead, and the entire plants are quite possibly lost. Trim off the dead wood, but give the plants time to sprout out from lower down on their stems. Plants that seem to have been hurt badly or killed in large parts of Texas include gardenias, viburnums, cenizas, loquats and citrus.

- Most perennials will come back just fine. Perennials, after all, are popular plants in much colder climates of the Upper Midwest. Sub-tropical perennials such as Mexican bush salvia, Gold Star Esperanza, flame anisacanthus, flowery senna, spineless prickly pears, bananas, agaves and trailing lantanas are likely to have been killed in colder parts of Texas.
- St. Augustine may be hurt, but we won't know for another 4 to 6 weeks. Floratam is the least cold-hardy type and Raleigh is one of the most cold-tolerant. Grass that was covered in snow probably gained some protection. Don't rush to a conclusion.
- Crape myrtles may have suffered damage. Members of the horticulture committee of The Crape Myrtle Trails of McKinney have posted this useful information on their Facebook page:

"Here is some great information from our horticulture committee on post-freeze care of your crape myrtles.

The keyword for your crape myrtles after the February 2021 Freeze is PATIENCE!

With more than 120 varieties of crape myrtles in the nursery marketplace, you can expect quite a lot of difference in mature sizes, growth forms, colors – and winter hardiness.

Did your crape myrtles survive the February cold intact, or will they suffer dieback? Here are some quick tips to help you know.

- If you can scratch the bark and see moist, green tissue, that wood is probably still alive.
- But remember that it's normal for a crape myrtle, a sub-tropical plant, to have 6-8 inches of dead twig wood each winter. Don't worry about that. It will drop off as new growth begins in the spring.
- If you do not find moist, green tissues as you progress down the stems, your plant may have frozen partway or completely to the ground.
- In our plantings of 40,000 crape myrtles across the city of McKinney in the past 20 years, we have seen frequent dieback of five specific varieties: Natchez, Tuscarora, Muskogee, Sioux and Country Red. It is probable that these will be damaged this year, and possible that others will, too.
- Watch crape myrtles in your neighborhood. If you have a plant that lags behind in leafing out by more than two weeks, it's probably frozen back to the ground.
- If that's the case, you can retrain your plant by cutting it back to the ground as you remove all the deadwood. Select the strongest shoots that it puts up from the ground and train them to be its new trunks. You'll be surprised at how quickly you'll have a handsome new plant.
- For the record, this is the same technique The Crape Myrtle Trails of McKinney recommends for salvaging plants that have previously been topped.
- Crape myrtles benefit from applications of nitrogen fertilizer (same as you apply to your turfgrass). Feed crape myrtles in early April, early June and early August.
- If you have a crape myrtle that needs to be transplanted, get that done in the next 3-4 weeks while it's still dormant. Dig it with a ball of soil intact around its roots. Replant it immediately, and water it deeply."



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# Arbor Day Trees

## Supplies you will need:

- blue sheet of [cardstock paper](#)
- cardboard roll
- green [tissue paper](#) cut in squares
- scissors
- school glue
- green [construction paper](#)
- [red buttons](#) (optional)

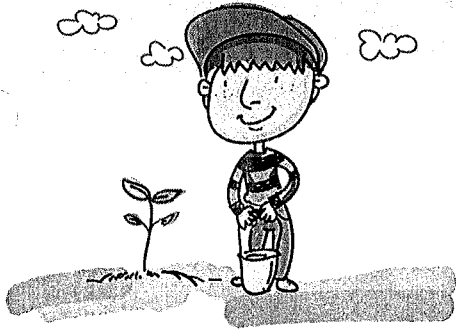
1. Cut your cardboard roll in half and use a generous amount of the school glue to put it in place on your blue cardstock paper.

2. After letting the cardboard roll dry, I drew the top of a tree shape in pencil above it and we scrunched up tissue paper squares and glued them down inside the tree shape.

3. Next we cut a strip of green construction paper for the grass and cut slits all the way down the strip. Glue it to the bottom of your paper on the sides of your tree.

4. Lastly, we glued on red buttons for the apples. (Optional)





# How to plant a Tree

1. Dig a hole 2 to 3 times wider than the root ball. The sides of the hole should be as rough and irregular as possible.
2. Carefully place the tree in the hole so the top of the root ball is 1 inch higher than the surrounding ground.
3. Hold the tree while gently back-filling around the root ball. Large clods of dirt should be broken up before back-filling. Do NOT add fertilizer or soil amendments.
4. With excess soil, build a 4 to 5 inch ring around the tree to create a watering saucer.
5. Water thoroughly to remove air spaces and settle the soil.
6. Cover with 1 inch of good compost and 3 inches of mulch consisting of bark chips, shredded hardwoods, pine needles or anything available.
7. Water again and as often as necessary to keep the soil moist (but not wet) for the next 2 years until it is established.

