



WELCOME TO KINGS ONLINE PLANT DOCTOR

FROST DAMAGE

FROST DAMAGE

If the leaves of your plants suddenly wilt, curl back and turn black overnight, they may have frost damage. The damage occurs when water inside the plant's cells freezes and forms ice crystals. As the ice crystals form they expand and rupture the cell walls, causing death. How much damage ensues depends on the plant. Some plants will die; others will simply die back and, with luck, will recover in spring.

WHAT TO DO?

Frosts affect the leaves first, followed by the stems, branches and roots. While dead leaves may be hanging off the stems, the stem itself may not be dead. You will be able to see how much damage is done in spring if and when new shoots appear, so hold off pruning immediately.

While it may be tempting to remove the damaged plant material straight away, you could be doing more damage than good if you prune too early. Pruning stimulates growth, and any new shoots will be damaged if more frosts hit. The damaged plant material can also act as an insulator, protecting the plant from further injury.

Wait to prune your plants until spring, or until all risk of frosts has passed. Hold off feeding as well. Like pruning, feeding encourages new growth, and any new growth is easily damaged by cold weather. Wait until spring to feed.

PREVENTION

If you have vulnerable plants in pots, move them to a sheltered spots – in glasshouse, under covered decks or in the garage overnight.

Keep an eye on the weather, if it looks like it will be below 0 degrees, cover any vulnerable plants with [frost cloth](#), or spray with [Vaporgard](#).



FROST DAMAGE PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS

Shop the Kings online store for all your gardening needs



WALLY'S VAPORGARD

Vaporgard is used at 15ml per litre and will last up to 3 months on foliage sprayed. Used for frost protection the day before a frost.



Everything you need!

FOR MORE ADVICE
CONTACT US

0800 PLANTS
09 410 9726

www.plantdoctor.co.nz
plantdoctor@kings.co.nz