

## **Winter Tree Protection**

With harsh Michigan winters, it is important that homeowners prepare their outdoor landscaping to endure the cold weather. When vegetation is neglected throughout the winter months, trees and shrubs become severely damaged and may die. The ideal time to start thinking about tree and landscape protection is during the fall season. The following are a few tips homeowners can take to extend the life of trees and other vegetation growing on their property:

- **Get a Head Start on Tree and Shrub Maintenance**  
Problems and defects in deciduous vegetation become visible after leaves have fallen. Homeowners can perform inspections around their property and determine which trees need immediate attention.
- **Water Trees and Shrubs Before the Ground Freezes**  
If trees and shrubs have undergone severe drought stress throughout the summer, watering trees before winter dormancy allows them to better tolerate winter conditions.
- **Prioritize which Trees Need the Most Attention**  
Assessing the location of trees and other landscaping is crucial in preparing for maintenance and winter damage prevention. Snow drifts can accumulate at certain locations on a property in which nearby vegetation may be impacted. Homeowners may decide to either use extra protection for sensitive vegetation or incorporate winter tolerant species in their landscaping.

For more information on winter tree protection, please visit the Michigan State University Extension at [www.msue.anr.msu.edu](http://www.msue.anr.msu.edu).