SO I HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR WINTER...

...watching the snow pile up and the temperature go down or plowing snow into even higher piles that could last well into Spring as a reminder of what we could have done without. Even for Michigan we were definitely out of our element, or better, out of our zone. Southeastern Michigan experienced temperatures a zone or more below our usual seasonal lows, and that's without adding on the wind chills.

When watching the weather (hoping and praying for relief from Winter's grasp) they would refer to the "real feel" temperature. It may only be five below zero but it feels like minus twenty due to the effects of the current Alberta Clipper, Manitioba Mauler, Polar Vortex, or whatever... So for man and beast (and plants) the results could be life threatening. In Summer "it's not the heat it's the humidity!" In Winter it's not just the cold, it's the wind chill factor. Worse than the cold are the dehydrating effects of the cold,dry wind.

When it comes to landscapes our broadleafs are the most vulnerable. Fall applications of anti-desiccants gave you that extra layer of protection from the effects of just such a winter (You did remember to Wilt-Pruf last Fall, didn't you? OOHHH! Well, maybe it won't be so bad...)

In our favor was the insulating effect of the deep snow, branches above the snow line are turning brown and will defoliate with tissue damage not visible as of yet. Branches below the snow are still green and healthy. Defoliation, die-back, frost cracks may soon appear. Then you'll need to deal with those and your customers. The snow load itself, so far, does not seem to have caused extensive damage. I am not as hopeful about the aftermath from the snowplows.

Get your pruners and fertilizer ready! Ready to take on what the WINTER OF 2013-14 left behind!

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Return to Archive