

Helping Evergreens in Winter

Last winter was very hard on many species of tree. Come spring, many of the evergreens had brown or red needles. This was caused by winter desiccation. In the winter the needles continue to transpire, giving off moisture. If there is no moisture available to the roots or the soil is frozen, the needles can't get more moisture. Our Wyoming winds also tend to dry out the needles. While winter watering helps, even that can't always solve the problem. Another solution is to spray the trees with an anti-desiccant.

An anti-desiccant is a wax based solution that coats the needles and prevents them from drying out. It should be sprayed on young evergreen trees in the fall when the weather is consistently cold. If you spray it too early, the warm weather will cause it to wash off. Thanksgiving is a good time to spray. You can work off all that turkey and pumpkin pie, just be careful when spraying with a wind. If you get the anti-desiccant on your windows your view will become fuzzy. In the spring, the warm weather will allow the anti-desiccant to be washed off with spring showers. Spray your evergreens again around New Years and mid-February.