

Detection of Damage Caused by Winter Weather

(adapted from an article written by Patty Vaughan on January 13, 2014)



Photo: noaa.gov

With snow and ice covering much of Maryland during this past winter, We are now just beginning to assess the damage.

Some homeowners (and the landscapers they hire) may find more work on their plate trying to repair damaged trees and shrubs.

Even though most of the damage will not be visible until the spring, there are a few key things to look for when it comes to tree/shrub damage.

You need to look for obvious signs of damage, badly sagging or split branches or branches that have not returned to their former position.

“More than likely, if the tree was healthy before the storm, it is still going to be healthy after the storm,” says Rory Quigley, President of the [International Society of Arboriculture Ontario](#) and an arborist with the Town of Cobourg.

For trees/shrubs to survive extreme conditions, you need to inspect the trunk, which can be a big indication if the tree is healthy or not.

According to the Society, if the tree has come through the storm unscathed, there is a good chance the tree can be saved with little or no work.

“If less than half the tree has been damaged, there is still a good opportunity to work with the tree and bring it back to health,” Quigley says.

To help prepare against winter storms, trees should be examined every three to five years.

According to Mike Rosen, president of Tree Canada, there may be some benefits to tree damage during an ice storm compared to a wind storm.

“In winter, trees are dormant and further injury by insects and disease is less likely than if the injury occurs during the growing season,” Rosen says. “Recovery depends on the health of the tree, the

amount of maintenance before the damage, especially preventive pruning, and the extent of the damage; healthy, well-maintained trees with few damaged branches should recover and in time the crown may even appear normal.”

- See additional information available at:

<http://www.totallandscapecare.com/how-to-detect-tree-damage-caused-by-winter-weather/#sthash.QZx5zSO8.dpuf>