



Frost Protection Guide

Greenhouse Wintering

Where a greenhouse is available it is preferable if tender plants in tubs can be overwintered here. Succulents that are planted in borders can be lifted and potted up with free draining compost for greenhouse overwintering as well. Remember though that the frost will still attack plants in an unheated greenhouse so you may require to line the greenhouse with bubblewrap and also provide a low energy heater.

Although it is winter, plants in greenhouses will still require a small amount of watering so don't just wrap them up and forget them.

Border Planted Protection

If your plant is planted in the garden and can't be lifted then there are still ways to protect them.

The easiest way is to securely wrap them with polypropylene fleece. There are various thicknesses of fleece available offering different degrees of protection. Some plants will also require having their leaves tied up first. Cordylines and Yuccas will benefit from this. They can all be left wrapped for the duration of the winter. Dicksonia Antartica (Tree Ferns) require their trunks and crowns protected and this is best done with straw securely tied to avoid being blown away.

Some plants however will prefer to be wrapped up only in the worst of the frosts. Callistemon (Bottlebrush) and Laurus Noblis (Sweet Bay) are two such examples for this treatment. They should only wrapped up for two weeks at a time.

Hardy Fuchsias can have their rootball protected by securing a clump of leaf mulch or straw over the soil. Remember not to cut the plant back before the winter as although

some stems will die they are used as sacrificial and will protect the lower parts of the plant.

Camelias will require their buds protecting with fleece when the temperatures fall below -4 degrees Celsius.

If the temperatures drop to -4 degrees Celsius and below Semi hardy evergreens will also require wrapping up to protect them.

Containers and Pots

If it is not possible to over winter any containers, tubs or pots under cover then they must firstly be lifted off the ground with pot feet or broken pieces of slabs. This will prevent the frost attacking the roots from below.

The containers and pots can then be wrapped with bubble wrap and securely tied to give additional side protection for the roots.

Finally if the plant is semi hardy the foliage can be securely wrapped with fleece to complete the protection.

Summary of Plants that Require Protection

Cordyline Australis

Dicksonia Antartica (Tree Fern)

Callistemon (Bottlebrush)

Laurus Boblis (Sweet Bay)

Yucca

Camelia – Flower Buds

Semi Hardy Evergreens

Semi Hardy Fuchsias

Succulents

Plants in Containers/Pots

Remember.....If in doubt.....Protect!