



HYANNIS
COUNTRY GARDEN

Dealing With Storm Damage

To Help With General Recovery

In the spring apply a light application of an **organic fertilizer** and/or **Bio-Remedy** to help stimulate new growth. (Do not fertilize in the winter.) Apply an inch or two of **compost or composted manure** to cover exposed roots and to help with soil health. This can be done at anytime of year. If the area has been mulched recently, rake off the mulch before adding compost, and then reapply. But if the mulch layer is older, and it's not very thick, compost can be put on top of the mulch.

Leaning/Flattened Plants

Pull plants back to their former position and use a **staking kit** to hold them in place. Leave this through the winter, but remove cables in eight months to a year so that they don't end up choking the plant. If using cord or metal cable, cover it with a foam tube or piece of old garden hose to prevent damage to the bark. Note that larger trees that are flattened to the ground may not be able to be saved. In such cases, consult a certified arborist about the likelihood of successful recovery.

Salt and Wind Burn

Plants that are burned by salt and wind are likely to shed the most damaged foliage. Rinse off all plants with fresh water as soon as possible. Applying an application of **Wilt Pruf** in fall following a storm can help protect an already stressed plant as it goes into the winter. Use the recommendations for **fertilizing and compost application** above.

Broken Branches/Split Trunks

Most branches that are broken should be removed from shrubs and trees so that there is a clean cut: jagged wounds are places where moisture collects and diseases can grow. Make cuts slanted, as vertical as possible, so that water can't pool on that exposed area. Occasionally a partly cracked limb or trunk can be bolted together, but there are no guarantees for success. Plants don't knit back together like human bones do, so that area is always going to be weaker. No tar or paint is needed for tree and shrub wounds; in fact, it can lead to rot behind the sealer.

Perennials

With the exception of woody plants such as lavender and Russian sage, cut damaged perennials down to improve the look of the garden. Mulching with **compost or composted manure** will help plant growth in the future. Remove dead leaves or stems.

Call us if you need further help: 508-775-8703

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