

COLD DAMAGE



Besides the obvious possibility of more tender plants freezing in extreme cold, the other most important consideration is snow fall. Whilst beautiful, the weight of snow can literally destroy a tree, especially evergreens which have greater capacity to capture the snow fall, that if not quickly knocked off, can weigh branches down to the point of breaking. Furthermore, even if the snow starts to thaw during the day, if there is still a significant amount of snow left on the tree it can freeze the following night, dramatically increasing the weight and at best changing forever the shape of the tree, if not completely destroying it. To ensure you do not have a problem, get dressed up warmly, and take a long bamboo pole or equivalent and knock the snow off any trees soon after it has fallen.



Here is an example of a *Photinia fraseri* 'Red Robin' that somewhat recovered from a having wet feet during a very cold winter. Some stems show significant amounts of bark decay which is covering up the fact that the cambium has retreated beneath, likely only leaving a very limited conduit for water and nutrients to the leaves. In most cases it is best to prune out the worst damage, because even if the tree survives it will be greatly weakened and unlikely to support future growth.

PHYSICAL DAMAGE

DEER DAMAGE

There are several species of deer in the UK which cause harm to trees. Deer tend to strip the bark up to 1.6m up the trunk for food. These outer layers of bark (cambium) are responsible for the transfer of water and nutrients to the canopy. If any, but especially if a significant amount of the circumference of the tree trunk becomes damaged, this will quickly lead to a decline in the canopy, inevitably resulting in the failure of the tree. Additionally, wounds open up the susceptibility of the tree to disease, including coral spot, or create havens for other pests. Deer mesh guards are available to purchase from Majestic Trees, in heights of 1.8 metres tall and 30 cm diameter, though more aesthetically pleasing guards are available. Please contact your sales advisor if you feel they may be necessary at your site.



RABBIT DAMAGE

When food becomes scarce during autumn and winter, rabbits will often carry out similar damage to deer albeit lower down the trunk, and often not as deep as deer damage. Certain tree species with sweeter woods such as Cherry, Apple, Pear, Laurel, Holly and June berries are particularly susceptible. Likewise, if the entire circumference becomes damaged, this will quickly lead to a decline in the canopy, inevitably resulting in the failure of the tree. Rabbit guards are also available to purchase from Majestic Trees, in heights of 1.2 metres and 30 cm diameter, though we can supply simply plastic wrap guard or more aesthetically pleasing guards are available. Please contact your sales advisor if you feel they may be necessary at your site.



MACHINERY DAMAGE

Unfortunately, far too often we see trees which have suffered from neglect: weeds and grass left growing around the base of trees looks untidy and will also compete with the tree for water and nutrients, and damage from strimming around the base of trees looks untidy and will also compete with the tree for water and nutrients, and damage from strimming around the base of trees. When the outer layer of bark is wounded by strimmer wire, irreparable, long term damage is caused visually and structurally, but also to the health of trees. These outer layers of bark (cambium) are responsible for the transfer of water and nutrients to the canopy from the roots. If any of the circumference becomes damaged, this will quickly lead to a decline in the canopy, resulting in the failure of the tree.

