



## **GARDENING BY THE MOON**

### **PATIENCE!**

**Submitted by**

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Last week was a trying time for all of us just to keep warm and safe during extreme cold temperatures and devastating ice. It was also a trying time for plant materials. You only need to step outside in your yard to verify that your plants suffered along with you. The impact of this storm will be felt into the summer and for some plants even over the next few years.

I am sure all of you have seen the devastation of the Palo Verde trees along Legacy. The ice accumulation on the branches caused loss and tearing of limbs. As many as 30 of these trees will have to be removed soon and unfortunately, these plants will not be replaced immediately. These trees have obvious ice damage that broke the trees apart but it is the unseen and less obvious damage on the remaining trees that still has to be evaluated in the coming weeks and months. More of these trees will die from freeze damage. Once of total number of trees that died has been determined, a decision will be made on how to precede with replacements.

Wendy Mueller, your Community Manager and the entire landscape maintenance team are doing everything possible to resolve freeze damage issues on all plant materials throughout the site. But this will take time.

I have said all of this to encourage each of you to be patient with this process. Most of us are short on patience due to the circumstances of the past year, but this situation also calls for patience.

For the plantings in your yard, I have the following suggestions:

- Do not cut back any of your brown and dead looking plants at this time. Wait a few weeks to see if new buds break out from the stem. If you see new growth, then cut back to where the new buds are developing and wait to see if these plants continue to come out and grow.
- Just because your plant is brown, it does not mean it is dead. Plants can leaf back out on the stems.

- Your perennials can also regrow from the root system if plant tops have been killed by the cold weather. If you see no regrowth by April, cut these plants back to the ground and wait a little longer to see if they push new growth. Again, patience is needed.
- Water all your plants now and continue to water and fertilize to encourage regrowth.
- Many of the brown leaves on your trees will begin to fall and that is good. If trees have freeze damage, this will start to show up on outer branches and trunks as we go through the stress of the summer. If you have broken branches in your trees, remove back to connecting branches. Do not leave stubs.

I will continue to provide updates on plant materials throughout the upcoming months. For now, patience is needed. It will take time to resolve all the freeze damage problems in your yard and in the common areas.