

GARDENING BY THE MOON

BOTTLEBRUSH AND INDIAN HAWTHORNE CUT BACKS

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Many homeowners across our state have had questions regarding best practices when addressing freeze damaged Indian Hawthorn and Bottlebrush shrubs. Our team has been on site to evaluate the these shrubs and other freeze damaged plants. We are recommending that you cut back these plants as soon as possible and no later than the next 2 weeks for the following reasons:

1. The younger plants are leafing out at the bottom and dead wood needs to be removed where new growth can receive sunlight (cut back to green, new growth).
2. The older plants are so dense that there is very little light for new growth. The tissue on the bottlebrush is still active so this makes us think they might still put out if cut back to a 4-6 inch height. The Indian hawthorne need to have dead tissue trimmed back to healthy growth.
3. Even if plants do not leaf back out after cutting back, these beds can be mulched which will improve the landscape appearance when compared to leaving dead and browned-out shrubs in place.
4. Also, if the plants do not recover after cutback, the tissue will start to deteriorate and make it easier to remove dead plants thus facilitating the replanting process.

The following plants (in no particular order) are considered to be hardy and acceptable plant choices to replace any Indian Hawthorne shrubs:

1. **Yedda** Indian Hawthorn (this variety only – other varieties froze)
2. Sunshine Ligustrum
3. Carissa Holly
4. Bordeaux Dwarf Yaupon Holly
5. Dwarf Yaupon Holly
6. Drift Rose (any color of this variety)
7. Monroe's White Liriope

We appreciate the partnership that exists between homeowners, HOA Management, landscape contractor, and our team with the end goal of maintaining your site as an aesthetically pleasing place to call home. The patience and proactiveness on the part of homeowners following the effects of the severe freezing weather experienced in February has been refreshing.