



GARDENING BY THE MOON

TREE CONFUSION!

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There has been confusion and many questions about trees with sloughing bark, especially this year because so many trees have freeze damage. If your tree has freeze damage, there will usually be vertical freeze cracks that open up into the heart wood of the tree. The bark can fall off but it will crack open and stay on the tree unless the tree has died. Bark will fall off dead trees.

What creates the confusion is that some trees have exfoliating bark. The bark of these trees will peel and fall off as the tree grows. Some examples of trees with exfoliating bark are Lace Bark Elm, River Birch, Chinquapin Oak, Bur Oak, Chinese Pistache and Natchez Crape Myrtle. This peeling and exfoliating is natural. If these trees have freeze damage, it will show up as vertical cracks.

In both instances, do not remove loose bark. Let it fall naturally.



Freeze Damage



Exfoliating Bark