

SPLASH INTO EXTENSION

Waterwise Wednesday: Blowing in the Wind

Wilson, the innovative giant ocean garbage collector by The Ocean Cleanup, set sail September 2018.

Remember, despite Wilson's efforts, the best way to remove plastic from water is to prevent it from entering waterways in the first place. Avoid single use plastics when possible and properly recycle or dispose of plastics that must be used.

Visit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcRIE98yUM&feature=youtu.be>

to view an update on the project.



Winter Desiccation

Winter watering and antidesiccants may be needed to protect valuable evergreens



Broadleaf and needle evergreens are at an increased risk of winter desiccation (drying) since they retain foliage year round. Evergreens planted in the last few years and those growing on south facing slopes or near the south sides of homes are most at risk. Adequate summer and fall moisture is most important to preventing winter desiccation that can lead to spring browning or plant death of evergreens.

Winter watering may not be needed due to our adequate rainfall this past season. However, if an absence of snow cover and warm, sunny or windy weather

continues, watering can be beneficial. The priority for watering is young plants first - those planted in the last year and especially those planted this past fall; then evergreens, particularly those growing in exposed locations and near the south sides of buildings.

When watering, the soil should not be frozen and air temperatures need to be above 40 degrees F. Irrigation should take place early enough in the day for moisture to soak into soil to avoid ice forming over or around plants overnight. Water just enough to moisten the soil six to eight inches deep. One or two irrigations during winter should suffice. If conditions remain warm and dry through winter and into spring, it will be critical to begin irrigation as soon as soils thaw this spring.

Antidesiccants, also known as anti-transpirants, help plants endure stressful periods by reducing transpirational water loss from foliage. The most common types of antidesiccants are an emulsion of wax, latex, or plastic that forms a thin film on foliage to minimize water loss from plants.

We recommend their use on evergreen conifers or broadleaf evergreens

in winter, particularly on plants with a history of winter desiccation injury or plants susceptible to winter drying like arborvitae, holly and Mahonia. Select the right product for the plant species as there are toxicity issues. Read and follow label directions.

Apply the product once every six weeks, beginning after plants have completely hardened off in late November. Continue through mid to late February. Avoid covering plants so heavily they become sticky with needles glued together. Have warm, soapy water nearby and clean out the sprayer immediately or equipment may be ruined by the product.