



### Managing Snow and Ice Loads on Trees and Shrubs

Winter storms that produce very wet and heavy snow/ice can greatly damage trees and shrubs. Healthy and well-managed trees and shrubs tend to be more resilient. As a homeowner, taking careful cation can minimize the potential for damage.

- Starting with branches no higher than you can reach, use gentle, upward strokes to remove the snow from the branch(es) with the broom or your hand.
- Alternately, use the handle of the broom or garden tool to gently lift the branch from underneath to dislodge the snow.
- Do not shake the branch; tree and shrub branches are brittle in winter and can easily break or split.
- Do not attempt to remove ice – allow it to melt off.
- Do not use a ladder to extend your reach.
- If branches are broken or damaged already, prune only those branches required to remove immediate safety hazards; to minimize further winter damage, complete any repair pruning in late winter just before the growing season.
- Consult an arborist or tree service to prune branches higher than you can reach and fallen limbs on cars, houses, and electrical wires.

<https://byf.unl.edu/topics/managing-snow-and-ice-loads-trees-and-shrubs>

### Hay Quality and Protein Supplementation

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Forage analysis can be a very helpful tool when removing some of the mystery in the hay that producers will feed this winter. Testing grass hays this year for protein and energy content can help producers design various winter supplementation programs that are appropriate for the forage supply available. Potential nitrate accumulating hays (Johnsongrass, sorghum, pearl millet, or sorghum-Sudan hybrids) should be tested for the nitrate concentration.

Forage quality has two important benefits to cows/heifers. First, Higher quality forages generally contain a larger concentration of important nutrients. Animals consuming these forages should be more likely to meet their nutrient needs from these forages. Secondly, animals can consume a larger amount of higher quality forages.

The combination of increased nutrient content and increased forage intake makes high quality forage valuable to the animal and the producer.

### Don't Let Forage be a Gap in Winter Cattle Nutrition

This year, bad growing conditions have taken a toll on how much forage is available and the overall quality of forages. This makes getting cattle the proper nutrition difficult as we go into winter. On the bright side, there are strategies that can help support cattle nutrition during the winter and into spring.

First and foremost, test the quality of your forages. This is a good way to assess any nutritional gaps in the diet. As forages decrease in quality, they start to develop a lack of protein and energy sources. Typically the lack of protein will occur first. As forages decrease in quality, they also decrease in trace minerals and vitamins. Supplementing is an important part of winter feeding. It fills any nutritional gaps and can prevent diseases caused by nutritional deficiencies.

<https://www.purinamills.com/cattle-feed/education/detail/don-t-let-forage-be-a-gap-in-winter-cattle-nutrition>

### Why Is Turkey The Main Dish On Thanksgiving? Troy Bickham

Almost 9 in 10 Americans have turkey for their thanksgiving meal. People might think it's due to what the pilgrims and the indigenous Wampanoag tribe ate during the first Thanksgiving in 1621.

The only first record of what the pilgrims ate during this feast comes from Edward Winslow. He wrote about the menu and in this writing he mentions the meal included fowl. Realistically, this could mean a variety of wild birds like ducks, geese, and turkeys.

One reason turkey is so popular in today's society may be due to marketing campaigns. In 1882, the Georgia's Augusta Chronicle predicted that "Thanksgiving will take the form of gastronomic pleasure."

The reason? Roasted turkeys would make a perfect celebratory centerpiece. Two other reasons having turkey became so popular: it's practicality for serving a large crowd and, producing turkeys costs less than raising cattle or pigs.

### Greenhouse Sitting Area



## Top 10 Toxic Plants for Pets: What to Look Out For - Courtesy of Dr. Rhine

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center received thousands of calls throughout 2020 pertaining to toxic plants and pets eating them. To help owners take special precautions, the ASPCA came out with a list of plants they received the most calls for.

- Lilies
  - Signs of ingestion
    - Upset stomach
    - Stomach and/or intestinal blockage
    - Acute kidney injury
    - Worst case scenario: death
- Azaleas and Rhododendrons
  - In cases of large ingestions:
    - Irregular heartbeats
    - Seizures
  - In cases of small ingestions:
    - Mild upset stomach
- Sago Palms
  - Every part of this plant is toxic for cats and dogs
  - Signs of ingestion:
    - Severe vomiting
    - Severe diarrhea
    - Difficulty clotting blood
    - Liver failure
    - Death
- Tulips
  - Signs of Ingestion:
    - Upset stomach
    - Stomach and/or intestinal blockage
- Hydrangeas
  - This plant actually contains cyanide
  - Most common signs of ingestion:
    - Upset stomach
- Peace Lilies
  - It's unlikely for signs to be severe
  - Signs of ingestion
    - Upset stomach
    - Drooling
    - Mouth pain
- Devil's Ivy or Pothos
  - Similar signs of ingestion as Peach Lilies
    - Upset stomach
- Lantana
  - In rare cases, liver failure may happen
  - Most common sign of ingestion:
    - Upset Stomach
- Daffodils
  - Most common signs of ingestion:
    - Low blood pressure
    - Upset stomach
- Hostas
  - Most common signs of ingestion:
    - Upset stomach

