

Storm-damaged trees, shrubs need prompt repairs

If snow and ice storms damage your trees or shrubs this winter, don't wait too long to make repairs, says Ross Penhallegon, horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service.

"The earlier damaged plants are taken care of, the better chance they have of healing," said Penhallegon. "Most of the damage is likely to be minor, such as cracked or broken limbs. But even with minor damage, it is important to remove all broken, fractures or

splintered wood to eliminate areas where rot and disease could take hold."

Cut damaged twigs and limbs back to the nearest strong, healthy wood or bud. Make the pruning cut where there is a collar or slightly raised area near the nearest side limb. Do not leave a long stub or snag. If the broken limb is attached to the trunk, cut the limb back to within a half-inch to an inch of the base.

If tree limbs are bent, but not cracked, don't cut them off right

away. Remove extra weight from the bent limb, including snow, ice and expendable side limbs, then leave it alone. With time, the limb may straighten out.

"If you are impatient, you can tie the limb up with a rope or prop it up with a long pole," said Penhallegon.

Saw large broken tree limbs back to the trunk of major side limb. Make the cut clean to help prevent rot diseases from becoming established in the area of the cut.

Some trees may be damaged beyond repair, or may require more work than most homeowners are willing to do. Young, fast-growing trees have the best chance to recover from major damage. Trees showing little regrowth each year, previously damaged trees or old, scraggly trees are less likely to recover from significant damage.

In the early spring, apply nitrogen fertilizer around the drip line area of recovering trees and shrubs to encourage vigorous growth.



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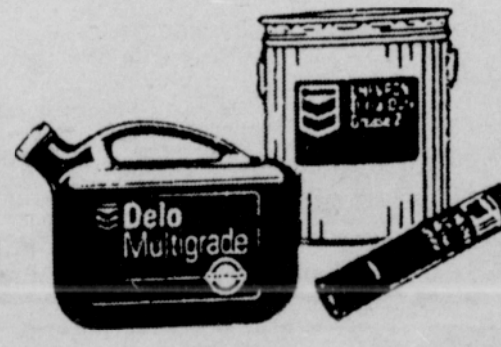
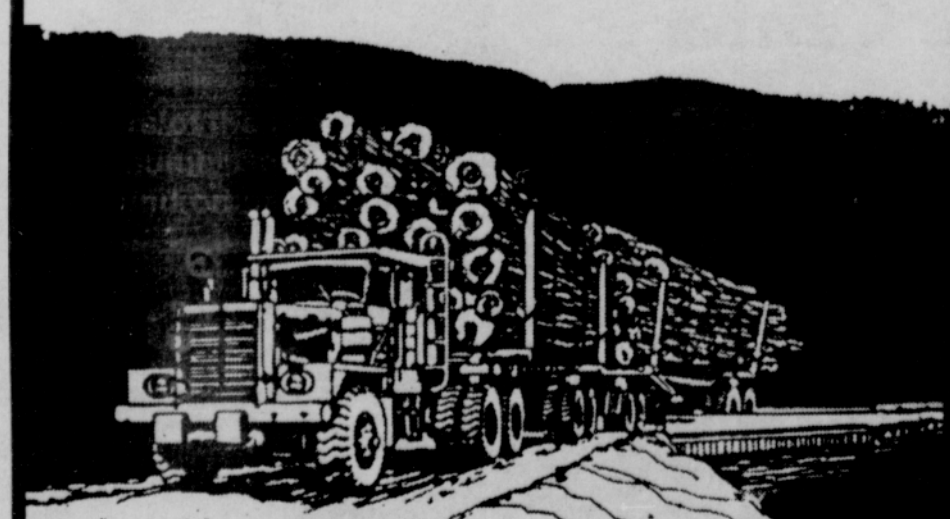
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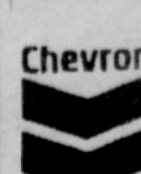
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