



Men In Chaps Tree Service

This year I have been asked more times than I can count, questions concerning this year's record winter storm, trees and shrubs. Due to this, I wanted to present this article to address these questions and give homeowners some guidance in the matter through a Q&A form. These are some of the most common discussions I have with those in the area.

Question: Do you think that it was the freeze that killed my oak tree?

Answer: It's hard to say. I believe that if the freeze were enough to outright kill this oak tree then I would think we would see a mass die-off event of a majority of the oaks in this area. I think that it is more likely that this tree was already suffering from disease, damage, or poor conditions and that the freeze was the last blow of the axe.

Question: Will my freeze-damaged tree come back?

Answer: It's certainly possible. It may take years to see any significant recovery from the storm and we may continue to see trees die as freezing is only one factor that can affect tree health. If you can afford to wait it out, I would suggest pruning to remove dead limbs, a fertilizer treatment, as well as tree irrigation to give the tree the best possible chance of recovery. Even if pulled off, it is likely that the long-term health and vitality of the tree has been affected. If the damaged tree poses a risk to your property or safety, then I recommend its immediate removal.

Question: What is a good tree/shrub that I can plant to replace those that I lost? I want something that is freeze resistant.

Answer: Purchasing cold resistant plants to replace your loss is probably not the best route. The winter storm was an extremely rare event and you should not base your plantings on the chance of it happening again. Your resources will be far better spent with plants that do well in our typical dry and hot climate here in central Texas.