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## Snow Increases Rabbit, Deer Damage

By Richard Jauron

Rabbits and deer have been browsing on trees and shrubs in windbreaks, home orchards and landscape plantings over the last two months because of the extended period of snow cover across most of Iowa. The prognosis for the plants depends on the extent of damage. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach horticulturists describe how to assess the damage. To have additional questions answered, contact Hortline at 515-294-3108 or email [hortline@iastate.edu](mailto:hortline@iastate.edu).



### **Rabbits have damaged several trees and shrubs in my yard. Will they survive?**

Deciduous trees that have been girdled (the bark has been removed completely around the trunk) have essentially been destroyed. The best course of action is to replace the girdled trees. Wrapping the trunk or applying pruning paint to the damaged area will not save the tree. Most affected trees will sucker at their base. However, since most fruit and ornamental trees are propagated by grafting, suckers which originate from the rootstock will not produce a desirable tree.

Many deciduous shrubs have the ability to produce new shoots or suckers at their base. Because of this ability, severely damaged deciduous shrubs may recover within a few years. Girdled stems should be cut off just below the damaged areas.

### **Rabbits heavily damaged my raspberries over winter. Will they produce a crop this year?**

Purple, black and summer-bearing red raspberries that have been badly damaged by rabbits will likely produce little fruit this year. Purple, black and summer-bearing red raspberries produce fruit on the previous year's shoots. First year growth is strictly vegetative.

The best strategy for home gardeners is to cut off the damaged canes at ground level in early spring. Place chicken wire or hardware cloth fencing around the raspberry planting in fall to prevent rabbit damage to the new canes over winter. The raspberries should produce fruit the following year.

Rabbit browsing should have little effect on the total crop yield of fall-bearing red raspberries. Fall-bearing raspberries naturally produce two crops. The first crop is produced in late summer/early fall at the tips of the current season's growth. The same canes produce a summer crop in the following year. Cut back the damaged canes at ground level in early spring. New canes should produce a good crop in late summer/early fall.

### **Deer have browsed on several of my evergreens. Will they recover?**

The key to the condition of deer-damaged arborvitae, yews, pines and other evergreens is the presence of growing points or buds on the browsed branches. Branches that have had all their buds devoured by deer will not produce new growth in spring. As a result, some small evergreens may have been destroyed. Larger evergreens may have lost their lower branches. Since buds on arborvitae and yews are rather difficult to see, individuals should wait until late spring before taking any action. Branches that are completely bare (no green growth is present) in early June have been destroyed and can be removed.



## BECOME A MASTER GARDENER

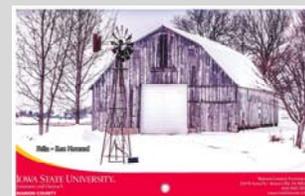
Register now for the Master Gardener training offered at Marion County starting this fall. Complete the training and volunteer internship to earn the title Master Gardener. Training includes 40 hours of horticulture education and one hands-on workshop in Ames on October 26th. Learn more by contacting Lauren Petersen at [lpeterse@iastate.edu](mailto:lpeterse@iastate.edu).

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## 2019 Marion County Photo Contest

The 2019 Marion County Photo Contest entries are underway. We want to celebrate the best scenes, events, businesses, and wildlife throughout Marion County. The top three photos from each of the four categories will be awarded a ribbon and certificate and will be placed in the running for the Best of Show photo.



**Eligibility:** The contest is open to amateur photographers only. Each person may submit up to 12 photographs, but is limited to 3 photos per category. All photographs must be taken in Marion County. Deadline is July 31, 2019.

### Categories:

**Seasonal Scenes:** Scenes depicting areas of Marion County throughout all the seasons of the year. Examples include: barns, bridges, trails, trees, flowers, towns, weather, bodies of water, etc.

**Livestock and Wildlife:** Photo's of livestock and wildlife within Marion County. Livestock includes any domesticated animal that is not a pet (no dogs or cats or house pets unless they are working dogs in action with livestock or wildlife). Only photo's of live animals will be accepted.

**Celebrating Marion County:** People at different events, festivals, and local businesses in Marion County. No selfies, we want the photographer to capture photo's as an observer. Examples: Tulip Time, Coal Miners, County Fair, Red Rock Balloon Festival, etc.

**People in Action:** People participating in recreational activities and work in Marion County. Ex: Youth Sports, fishing, camping, etc.

Contact Lauren Petersen for more details at [lpeterse@iastate.edu](mailto:lpeterse@iastate.edu) or 641-842-2014.

## Mark Your Calendars

March 30th - ISU Morel Mushroom Workshop

April 5-6th - Siouxland Garden Show

April 6th - Knoxville Garden Club's Garden Gala

April 6th - ISU Morel Mushroom Workshop

April 9th - Herb Gardening Workshop 6:30pm Marion County Extension Office

May 14th - Fairy Garden Workshop 6:30pm Marion County Extension Office, RSVP to Lauren by May 7th

*"The Green Scene" is a tip sheet developed by the Marion County Extension Office to inform people of horticulture events, problems, and interesting ideas. Let us know if you want to be added to our mailing list. Some issues are also available at [www.extension.iastate.edu/marion/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/marion/). This material has been prepared by Lauren Petersen, Agriculture Program Assistant. If you have questions, please contact the office at (641) 842-2014.*

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