

# Sandbag Cleanup Bid Request

After the flood waters have receded there are still several properties with sandbag dikes. The bags are deteriorating at a rapid rate and need to be cleaned up as soon as possible. Approximately 400 cubic yards of sand/sandbags remain on site.

Koochiching County is soliciting requests to get the remaining sand and sandbags cleaned up. Requests will be granted on a per cubic yard of material basis for three different locations; Rainy Lake, mouth of the Littlefork River and Loman. All material must be delivered to a county approved site.

For a list of addresses, approximate volumes of material, disposal locations and a full Request for Proposal packet contact Environmental Services in the Koochiching County Courthouse or call 218-283-1157. The deadline for submitting proposals will be October 24, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

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# LOCALNEWS

## Protecting evergreens from winter damage



Jan  
**MAAS**  
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Our harsh Northern Minnesota climate can be responsible for severe damage to landscape plants, especially a winter like our last one. The prolonged cold as well as winter sun and wind can bleach and desiccate evergreen branches. All is not lost, however. With planning and care plants can be protected to minimize damage and loss.

Plants that are normally hardy in our zone 3 can be injured if winter conditions are abnormally severe. Injury is more prevalent when low temperatures occur in early fall or late spring or if there is little snow cover during the winter. Temperature fluctuations can be harmful throughout fall, winter and spring.

Browning or bleaching of evergreen foliage during the winter occurs for the following reasons. Winter sun and wind cause excessive transpiration (foliage water loss) while the roots are in frozen soil and unable to replace

lost water. Bright sunny winter days also cause warming of the plant tissue to above air temperature which causes the foliage to “wake up” and begin cellular activity. Then when the sunshine is gone, foliage temperature drops quickly and causes the foliage to be injured or killed.

During bright, cold winter days chlorophyll in the foliage is destroyed (photo-oxidized) and is not replaced resulting in bleaching of the foliage. Cold temperatures early in the fall before plants have hardened off completely or early in spring when new growth has started can also cause injury.

Proper placement of evergreens is important to minimize winter injury. Foliar damage normally occurs on the southern and windward sides of the plant. Try to avoid placing plants on the southern exposure of buildings or in highly exposed sunny, windy places. What to do if your evergreens are already planted in a less desirable spot? Surrounding the planting with a burlap barrier can protect it from winter burn. Make sure to leave an opening at the top for air and light penetration.

Keeping evergreens properly watered throughout the growing season and into the fall is another way to reduce injury. Try to keep evenly watering to decrease any stress to the plant. Water thoroughly until freeze-up occurs. Giving your evergreens a drink only in late fall does not reduce the risk of winter injury.

There are anti-desiccant and anti-transpirant sprays available. However, most research shows them to

be not very effective.

If an evergreen has suffered winter injury, wait until mid-spring before pruning out injured foliage. Brown foliage is most likely dead and won't recover, but the buds are more cold hardy than the foliage and often will grow to fill in the areas where foliage was removed. If there is extensive brown foliage, there is not much that can be done except to replace the plant. Let's hope our upcoming winter is not as severe as the last one. It's better to be safe than sorry and start preparing our evergreens in fall ... just in case.

**Refer to the University Of Minnesota Extension Service website <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/> for more information on horticultural topics. In addition, local Master Gardeners will again answer your questions on home horticulture. Call 218-444-7916, leave your name, number, and question and you will get a call.**

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## NOTICE OF RANIER CITY ELECTION

Notice is given that the city election of the City of Ranier, Koochiching County, Minnesota, will be held on November 4th, 2014, in conjunction with the General Election.

Voting hours: 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Polling place: Ranier Community Building, 2099 Spruce Street

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