



# OGDEN'S DESIGN & PLANTINGS, INC.

WWW.OGDENS.COM

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## DORMANT OR DEAD?

### Design & Installation:

- Natural Gardens
- Japanese Gardens
- Bed Maintenance
- Therapeutic Gardens
- Paths & Patios
- Stone & Brickwork
- Specialty Gardens
- Seasonal Color & Interest

### February To-Do List:

- Create garden designs and plans
- Collect early-flowering tree and shrub branches for indoor forcing
- Check the condition of garden mulch
- Assess winter plant damage
- Send for seed and nursery catalogues
- Save fireplace wood ashes as a source of garden potash
- Initiate outdoor masonry projects

### Ogdenwords:

**Annual:** Plant which survives for one season only from germination to death.

**Astringent:** A substance that draws together or contracts body tissues and thus checks the flow of blood or other secretions.

**Perennial:** A plant that lives more than two years or three seasons and flowers annually.

When plants break dormancy after the chills of winter, it can be tough to tell if the plant is dead or alive.

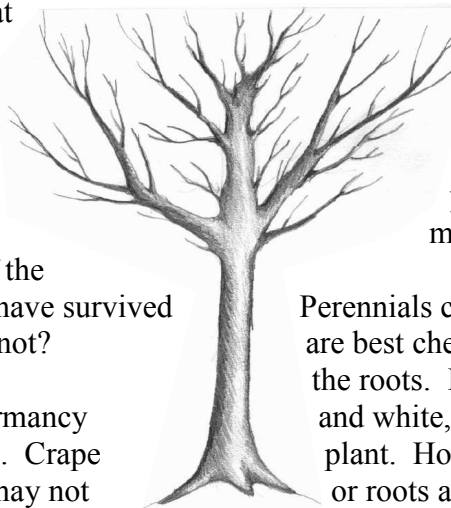
Plants need to have a dormant period, a time to rest and make the transition from autumn leaf drop to the new flowers and foliage of spring. It's often the cooler temperatures of winter that help with this transition. As spring approaches and plants start to come out of dormancy, many plants may look dead.

So how can you tell if the plants in your garden have survived the winter weather or not?

Some plants break dormancy much later than others. Crape myrtles for instance, may not start to show their leaves until the end of May. Bamboo foliage can brown over the winter and won't be replaced with new green leaves until June. Just because a plant looks dead in March, doesn't mean that it will not be beautiful later in the year. Evergreens, like boxwood or ilex, can lose their leaves too, but will replenish or replace them in late summer.

The first thing to do if you have a plant in question is to see if the wood is green. Gently scratch the bark with your fingernail, small knife or pruning shear. If you can see soft green or white wood under the outer layer of bark, your plant is still alive. Obviously dead, dry

wood cannot be brought back to life and should be pruned out. If the entire plant is dead you'll need to remove it.



Perennials can suffer too. They are best checked by looking at the roots. If the roots are crisp and white, you have a healthy plant. However if the crown or roots are brown or grey, and soft and mushy, then it's safe to assume that the plant will not come back.

Just keep in mind that trees, shrubs and perennials come back every year; but annuals grow for only one season and will need replacing. Call us if you need help determining if your plants are dead or alive and we will be happy to advise you.



### Need Help With Your Garden?

Join our personalized maintenance program to give you worry-free gardening throughout the year.

**Sign Up Today!**



## Banish the Winter Blues

Call (631) 473-5064