

References

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Winterizing your magnolias

If spring frost crack of magnolia stems is a problem at your location, now is the time to prevent it. The solution is to wrap the stem with tree wrap, a 3-4 inch wide creped paper strip sold in rolls in garden centers just for this purpose. (In Ohio, the product is labeled Clarkes Tree Wrap.) Start at the base of the main stem and wind the paper around the stem in an upward spiral, overlapping the windings as you go. Usually covering the bottom 2-3 feet of stem is sufficient. Seal the end of the strip at the top with duct tape.

Remove the wrap once the danger is past (mid-April here) and before the weather gets too warm. It's not a good idea to leave the wrap on in the summer: It just encourages bugs such as earwigs (Yecch!) to camp out there. Likewise, I like to wait until there have been a few frosts before wrapping stems, so as not to provide an attractive refuge for bugs when they are hunting for wintering places.

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