



## Riverview Garden Club Helpful Hints March 2018 A Snow Covering is Good



**A natural snow covering is not only beautiful, but acts as an insulator for your gardens. A fresh, deep, fluffy snow covers plants with protection as the soil temperature under its covering can be more than double that of the above ground temperature. This insulation protects against the freeze and thaw that can damage plant roots. The effects of the warm days of winter followed by a freeze can upheave plants and kill their roots if there is no snow cover.**

**A snow cover helps preserve soil moisture in winter and provides a slow release as it melts in the early spring. As snow falls, nitrogen attaches to the snowflakes providing “poor man’s fertilizer”.**

**A covering of snow will prevent plants and bulbs from growing during a warm spell as the new growth from the warm spell could be killed by the next cold snap.**

**Stratification is a cooling period which some seeds require in order to germinate. With a snow pack, this cooling period can occur naturally. A snow cover offers fall’s fallen seeds a better contact with the soil for quicker germination.**

**--Sandy**