



## Question of the Week

**Q.** This warmer-than-usual winter weather has me wondering about my bulbs and other plants. Will they be damaged or killed?

**A.** Our usual winter weather is cold enough to keep plants dormant all season long, but not this year. The warmth has triggered premature bulb growth in many gardens, especially among the early-flowering varieties. There is little you can do to stop bulbs from sprouting; they will stop growing when temperatures drop. The new foliage will be killed back when cold weather returns, but bulbs and the storage roots of other perennials should remain undamaged underground. The spring foliage may show yellowing or browning and the flower display might not be as spectacular, but the bulb itself should survive and flower in spring, as long as the plant doesn't actually bloom.

Of course, a lot depends on the weather patterns between now and spring. If temperatures plummet rapidly before sprouting and budding plants have a chance to harden off, gardeners could be in for more serious damage, especially to trees and shrubs. There isn't much we can do but sit back and wait.

Got questions? UNH Cooperative Extension's Family, Home & Garden Education Center Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1-877-398-4769, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and Wednesday evenings, 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m., or e-mail us at [answers@unh.edu](mailto:answers@unh.edu)