**WHAT IS IT?**
The frequency of hail in the U.S. is greatest in the Great Plains due to a higher elevation (closer to freezing level). Hail forms when rain/ice particles are carried in the updrafts and downdrafts in thunderstorms colliding and freezing onto one another, while growing into larger pieces of ice.

An average of 70% of hail reports in Nebraska occur from May-July (1955-2015).

From 2003-2012, there were 7-11 severe hail days (>1.0" hail within 25 miles of any point) per year in Nebraska.

Number of days per year, within 25 miles of any point from 1986-2015:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hail &gt; 1.0”</th>
<th>Hail &gt; 2.0”</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>S Neb</strong> 5+ days</td>
<td><strong>S Neb</strong> 1 day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>N Neb</strong> 3-4 days</td>
<td><strong>N Neb</strong> 0.6 days</td>
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Source: Storm Prediction Center

**Typical Damage:** Impact from hailstones can damage leaves, stems and fruit. The size of the hailstone, the amount of hail, time of year, and the wind speed plays a big role in the amount of damage to plant material.

**PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS**
To protect against hail, cover up as much as possible.

1. **Remove any dead, damage or diseased tree branches** as you see them.
2. **Bring potted plants and trees to a temporary protected location** or cover plant material with large empty pots or empty containers until the threat of hail has passed.
3. **Hoops with floating row cover** can help prevent hail damage to vegetable crops.
**TYPICAL DAMAGE**

- **Changing temps can alter the effects of hail**

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS**

Once the hail has passed, remember to trim where needed.

- **Utilize corrective pruning** of broken branches if it is safe to do so from the ground or hire an arborist.

- **Cut off severely damaged flowers and stems** with a bypass hand pruner just above a node.

- **Remove hail damaged fruit or vegetables** if damage is severe before rot begins.

- **Avoid excessive leaf removal and pruning.** Remove severely hail damaged leaves, but try to leave as much green tissue as possible which is needed for photosynthesis and plant recovery.

- **Replant annual flowers** that do not have any remaining foliage or show signs of recovery within a week.

- **Avoid fertilization** until the plant recovers.

- **Keep soils around the plant evenly moist,** not soggy or dry.

- **Mulch with wood chips** to avoid weed competition and to moderate soil temperature and moisture.

- **Monitor plants** for signs of cankers on twigs/branches; prune these out.

For more information, visit [weather-ready.unl.edu/landscapes](http://weather-ready.unl.edu/landscapes)