

### ***What Causes Sunscald Injury on the Trunk of a Tree?***

Sunscald is damage to the bark that occurs on the south, west or southwest side of the trunk of a tree. On a sunny day in winter, a tree trunk may be warmed as much as 18 degrees or more above air temperature. The bark temperature may drop quickly when the sun goes behind a cloud or in the evening. This temperature fluctuation over a period of time can cause injury or death to the cambium of the tree.

A severe split usually occurs at the base of the trunk. This injury may heal over time. In many situations, it contributes to the slow death of the tree.