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Live Christmas Tree Care

Choosing a live, potted Christmas tree is a way to not only lend fragrance and beauty to your home during the holidays, but to enhance your landscape with a lingering reminder of happy times. Live Christmas trees must be treated differently than a cut tree, so for the best results, please follow our advice carefully.

1. **Do not keep your tree indoors for longer than 7-10 days.** Your tree is used to the cool/cold and damp weather outdoors. Your indoor environment is too warm and dry for the tree to do well if you keep it there for too long.
2. **Keep the tree outdoors in the weather until ready to bring it in.** If the temperatures are well below freezing, you will have to slowly thaw the tree out in a garage or other protected area for a couple of days before bringing it indoors.
3. **Shut off the heat vent near the tree so that warm air is not blowing directly on the tree.** Keep the tree away from wood stove-heated areas. (It's a good idea to put a pot of water on the stove to increase the humidity.)
4. **Mist the tree often to mimic the humid outdoor conditions it thrives in.**
5. **Use only small lights on the tree to avoid burning the foliage.**
6. **Use either plastic saucers or multiple garbage sacks, one inside the other, around the base of the tree pot to catch excess water.** Keep the soil moist, but not soggy, while it's indoors.
7. **Immediately after Christmas, take the tree back outdoors where it can sit out in the weather again until you are ready to plant it.** If outdoor temperatures are below freezing, you will need to slowly acclimate it again to colder temperatures by moving it to the garage for a few days first. You may be able to leave the tree in a pot for a few years if the pot size is large enough and you do a good job of keeping the soil watered and fertilized.

8. Plant the tree as soon as possible in an area with strong sunlight, well draining soil and plenty of room to spread its branches. Ask for a copy of our general planting guide for more information.

Many trees and shrubs will make attractive live Christmas trees, plus look great in your landscape long after the holidays are over. As you browse, please make note of the plants needs and mature sizes. Your live Christmas tree will be in your house for mere days, and in your yard for many, many years, so you want your choice to be compatible with the rest of your landscape!

Here are just a few of the many choices for your live Christmas tree:

Alpine Fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*): A Northwest native, this tree has bluish-green needles on a steeple-shaped form. Grows 60-90' tall & 15-20' wide.

Weeping Alaskan Cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis 'Pendula'*): Dr. Seuss fan? This could be your tree! This slender, elegant tree has widely spaced weeping branches. Once the holidays are over, it will make a stately, graceful specimen tree in your garden.

Blue Ice Cypress (*Cupressus arizonica 'Blue Ice'*): Beautiful silvery-blue foliage on a tree that becomes broadly pyramidal at maturity. Foliage is highly aromatic when crushed. Very wind tolerant. Grows 25-30' tall & 20' wide. Full sun.

French Blue Scotch Pine (*Pinus sylvestris 'French Blue'*): This picturesque evergreen tree has bright blue foliage that keeps its color through the winter. It will make an excellent specimen tree in your landscape. Moderate growing to 40-60' tall & 20-25' wide.

Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*): This U.S. native tree requires a lot of space in the landscape - it grows 2-3' a year, and in a garden setting may eventually reach 100' tall & 50' wide.

Topiaries: Why not? We have a lovely selection of topiaries that would make unique live Christmas trees, plus add an elegant or funky touch to your garden.

☞ Check out the rest of our **Conifer** section for more cedars, pines, firs, spruces, arborvitae, hemlocks, junipers and other potential live Christmas tree candidates.

Because of the conditions that a potted Christmas tree is subjected to when brought indoors, we are unable to guarantee your tree. However, if you follow our advice, and use common sense, we believe you will have great success!