

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 they look great in your landscape long after the holidays are over. Here are a few that are available this year:

Firs:

- Nordmann
- Fraser
- Korean
- Korean Horstmann Silberlocke
- Arizona Compact Blue

Spruce:

- Colorado Fat Albert

For smaller options:

- Spruce – White Alberta
- Cypress – Lawson, Guardian Series,
including:
 - Golden King
 - Silberstar
 - Silver Queen
 - Snow Queen
 - Snow White