

Caring For Your Live Christmas Tree

From the Professionals at

four seasons
four seasons
NURSERY



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Live Christmas Tree Guide

Living Christmas trees are a wonderful tradition. Seeing them grow year after year brings back the memories of Christmases gone by. Here are some tips from **Four Seasons Nursery** to help make your living Christmas tree a success for years to come.

1. When to bring the tree inside:

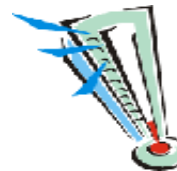


Most people want their Christmas tree inside for Christmas Day. Some want it there long before and some long after. Live Christmas trees, however, if left indoors too long, can break dormancy and, when put back outside, stand the chance of being severely damaged or even killed. **WE RECOMMEND A LIVE TREE REMAIN INSIDE NO LONGER THAN 14 DAYS.** To determine when to bring your tree inside, first determine when it will go out. Then you can count back to determine when to bring it in. Begin acclimating your tree somewhere between December 9th and December 17th.

2. Acclimating your tree:

Acclimating is the process of slowly adjusting your tree to the change in temperature. Rapid changes in temperature can cause a tree to go into shock and even die. **WE RECOMMEND 3-4 DAYS OF ACCLIMATION PERIOD BEFORE AND 7-10 DAYS AFTER THE TREE IS INSIDE.**

This can be done by placing the tree in a place where the temperature is cooler than inside but not as cold as outside. A garage, shed, enclosed porch or an unheated room work great for this purpose. Many people who like to decorate early will light the tree and put it near a window for a few days before or while acclimating. Be sure to water the tree regularly while it is acclimating.



3. Bringing the tree indoors:



Clear an area big enough for the tree to fit without having to severely prune or bend the branches. **KEEP YOUR TREE AWAY FROM ALL HEAT SOURCES!**

Close any heating vent that will directly blow on the tree and never place it near a fireplace or wood stove. Set the tree in a large plastic saucer to protect your carpet or floor from water damage. It is a good idea to have a mat under the saucer for added protection.



4. Caring for the tree indoors:

While the tree is indoors, it will need to be watered. The best way to water a conifer indoors is with ice cubes. Most trees require 2 trays (@ four cups) of ice cubes. Larger cubes melt slower and last longer. Check the saucer for excess water each time you add ice cubes and remove it by soaking it up with a rag or sucking it out with a turkey baster.

Large lights can get warm increasing the chance of the buds to break dormancy so use smaller lights and don't leave them on for extended periods of time.

5. Moving the tree outside:



Completely un-decorate the tree before moving it to avoid breaking any ornaments. You may leave the lights on the tree to light it outdoors if you want.

After re-acclimating your tree, move it outside where it will be exposed to the elements. If you aren't planting it right away, be sure to continue watering regularly if there is no rain.

