

How to Care for Your Living Christmas Tree

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Living Christmas trees are coniferous trees that usually become quite large once planted. Choose a variety that will reach the height and width desired for its future planting location. On average, coniferous trees perform best in well-draining soil with full sun.

AVOID ROOT DISTURBANCE

The root ball is a sensitive area for coniferous trees, especially if they are larger and balled and burlapped. Avoid moving the tree too often, and always move the tree by handling the pot and not the trunk, or tree itself.

WATER REGULARLY

Trees that are potted up will dry out quick, especially once moved into a heated area. Make sure the tree is getting adequately watered. Keep in mind that trees that are balled and burlapped do not absorb water as easily as a container grown tree.

AVOID EXCESSIVE HEAT AND EXTREMES

The tree should be stored in an unheated, sheltered area, such as a garage or porch, until the holiday season comes closer. The tree should stay no longer than 7-10 days in a heated house. Living Christmas trees are happiest in cool temperatures with bright light from the outdoors. If, or when the tree is to be decorated, avoid lights that give off too much heat, or only turn them on for brief periods of time. The trees do not adjust well to extreme temperature changes, avoid letting the root ball repetitively freeze and thaw, and try to transition slowly from extreme cold to a heated house.

MOVE BACK OUTDOORS

After the season comes to an end, make sure to move the tree back outdoors. In Oregon, where it rains regularly, you can place your tree in an area where the rain will naturally water it. Remember to check on it occasionally though, to make sure it is adequately water, and the pot is draining properly. When spring comes around and the ground becomes easier to work, the tree can be planted.

ENJOY!

Living trees might take a little extra care, but remember, you and future generations will be able to enjoy the beauty of this tree for many years to come!

OTHER SUGGESTION FOR YOU TREE

Decorate it outdoors with strings of popcorn, cranberry wreaths, small suet seed balls and pinecones dipped in peanut butter and birdseed. The birds will *love* it!

Due to the unnatural stress of moving a tree into a hot and dry house, and all the accompanying variables, the tree no longer falls under being properly planted and cared for and we are unable to guarantee Living Christmas Trees.