



# LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE CARE TIPS

Purchasing a living Christmas tree (instead of a fresh-cut tree) is a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday season *and* provide an addition to your landscape! Living Christmas trees take some special care, but they are well worth the effort.

## LIVING TREE SELECTION

Since it will be planted in your garden after the holidays, your tree should be of a suitable size when mature and able to thrive in the available conditions.



Although the Noble Fir is a favorite fresh-cut tree, it prefers to grow at higher elevations; does not thrive in the Willamette Valley. The Douglas Fir is another popular fresh-cut choice, but is a fast grower that can reach heights of 40–60+ feet.

*Therefore, smaller or slower-growing trees may be more appropriate for average home gardens:*

**Cryptomeria 'Black Dragon':** Makes a beautiful evergreen specimen tree, slowly growing to about 10' tall and wide.

**Picea glauca 'Fastigiata':** Small, narrow form of Blue Spruce maturing to about 15–20' tall and 5' wide.

**Pinus strobus 'Louie':** Vibrant yellow growth in spring, holding bright color year-round with long, thin, golden needles; grows to about 20' tall and 15' wide at a rate of a little more than a foot per year.

**Junipeus torulosa (Hollywood Juniper):** Makes a lovely specimen for a sunny, dry landscape; grows at a moderate pace to about 10–15' tall and 4–6' wide.

**Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Jade Waves':** Great for areas with filtered sunlight or shade, this tree has a gracefully narrow, upright habit growing to about 6–12' tall.

**Dwarf Alberta Spruce (Picea glauca 'Conica'):** If you prefer to keep your tree growing in a container, consider a dwarf conifer. This one keeps a natural, classic Christmas tree shape while slowly growing to about 6–8' tall by 4–5' wide.

## INDOOR TIME

- **Keep your tree inside** for no more than 7–10 days, especially if your home is kept very warm.
- **To enjoy longer**, display on a porch or balcony and decorate with weather-proof ornaments and lights!



## INDOOR PLACEMENT

- **Before bringing the tree inside**, move it to a garage or cooler room for a few days to help acclimate it to warmer temps and less light.
- **Spray with anti-transpirant** like *Moisture Loc* or *Wilt Stop* before bringing inside; allow to dry completely.
- **Place in bright light**; keep curtains open during the day.
- **Avoid placing the tree** close to a fireplace or heat vent.



## WATERING

- **Water thoroughly**; keep roots moist, but not wet—never allow tree to sit in standing water.
- **For easy watering**, place a tray of ice cubes on top of soil every other day or more often for larger trees.
- **Place the plastic grower's pot** into a decorative container or wrap with paper/burlap; allow for drainage—use a tray for excess water. Additional surface protection may be necessary for wood floors and furniture.



## DECORATING

- **LED lights are recommended** since they are cool-burning and won't dry out the foliage.
- **Lightweight ornaments** are best to use so they don't bend or break the branches.



## PLANTING AFTER XMAS

- **Remove decorations, bring outside, and hose off** your tree with a fine mist spray.
- **If temperature is below 32°F**, take tree back into a cool room/garage for a few days before moving outside.
- **If weather is warm enough** for planting, plant your tree!
- **If you prefer to wait until spring** to plant your tree, be sure to keep it well watered through winter.

