



Bucks Country Gardens

Care Instructions For Live Christmas Trees

Bringing a balled & burlapped (or potted) evergreen tree indoors for the holiday can be rewarding, and, with the proper care, will be a beautiful accent to your landscape for many years to come. However, there are several important procedures to ensure the survival of your new tree. Keep in mind that a live tree should only be indoors for one week OR LESS.

AS SOON AS YOU HAVE DECIDED TO BUY A LIVE CHRISTMASS TREE, dig a hole (while the soil is still workable) and store the soil (in the garage, carport, or basement; you'll need this for planting later.)

YOUR WILL NEED;

- Live, B & B evergreen
- Soil
- Large container
- Peat Moss
- Burlap
- Mulch
- Tree Preservative
- Stakes (optional)

SPRAY YOUR TREE

With an anti-dessicant (such as Safer's ForEver Green or WILT-PRUF) before bringing it inside. This application will protect the tree from the dryness in doors.

PLACEING YOUR TREE INSIDE

Radiators, heating vents, fireplaces, coal/wood stoves and Christmas trees (whether living or fresh-cut) NO NOT go well together. Place your tree in a cool spot – away from these "drying" factors.

CONTAINERS

Use a half-whiskey barrel, steel tub or other container able to hold the tree without tipping over. Place only an inch or so of water in the bottom; then, place a large piece of burlap to cover the root ball completely. The burlap should remain moist at all times, so check it regularly.

DECORATING YOUR LIVE TREE

Whether you decorate your tree with old, cherished ornaments and garland, or the new ones you've just purchased just this year, trimming a tree is a LOT OF FUN!! However, when stringing lights in your live Christmas tree be careful not to place them too close to the tree buds. We recommend using twinkle (miniature) light sets because of their LOW heat release.

TRANSPLANTING PREPARATION

Planting your live tree is relatively easy. While it's not as critical as bringing the tree indoors gradually, taking the tree OUTSIDE will require gradual conditioning – if you expect the tree to live.

Place the tree in a breezeway or enclosed porch (wherever the temperature is around 45 degrees F) for approximately 2-3 days and then move it outside and plant. If you did not apply your anti-desiccant (tree preservative) before, NOW is the time to do it. Use the stored soil (or bagged soil from our garden center) and peat moss as backfill. Apply a thick layer of mulch over the backfill soil and stake the tree.

Water your new evergreen IMMEDIATELY upon planting and regularly throughout the year to help develop a strong root system. Fertilize your tree with an acid-loving fertilizer (such as ESPOMATM HOLLY-TONE 4-6-4 or comparable type.)