



Fresh-Cut Christmas Tree Care

At **Town & Country Gardens**, we strive to provide you with the freshest, most shapely tree possible. They are grown on secluded tree farms in the mountains of Oregon, Montana, and Wisconsin, where each tree is individually pruned, shaped, and nurtured for many years before it is harvested.

Our trees are the very freshest possible. They are harvested just before Thanksgiving and shipped to us in enclosed trucks to avoid cold, drying winds. We store them out of the wind in a cool but frost-free building, and display them in our greenhouse for your shopping comfort.

A few simple care tips will enhance the enjoyment of your Christmas tree and keep it fresh and fragrant throughout the holiday season. When you bring the tree home, **transport it inside the vehicle or inside a tree bag** to reduce the damage from cold, drying winds. Severely cold weather can cause even a fresh tree to drop needles prematurely, so put the tree in the garage, standing in a container of water, protected from the wind and cold until you are ready to decorate.

Before bringing the tree into your home and placing it in a stand, **make a fresh cut** a minimum of one-quarter inch off the base of the trunk. This opens the tree stem so it can take up water. **Immediately place your tree in the stand and fill it with fresh water.** If you allow the water level to drop below the fresh cut, a new seal will form over the stem. Remember that trees are very thirsty. They may drink from a pint to a gallon or more of water per day. (Our **SUPER STAND STRAIT®** is excellent because it holds nearly 2 gallons of water). **Check the stand daily and supply fresh water as needed.** Water temperature is not important, but avoid using soft or conditioned water. We recommend adding **KEEPS-IT GREEN®** tree preservative to the water. It is the only preservative on the market that has been proven to extend the life of the tree and retard needle drop. Other brands do not help and a few including many "home recipes", have been shown to actually harm the tree.

Place your tree away from fireplaces, radiators, television sets and other heat sources that can prematurely dry your tree. Setting your room thermostat a few degrees lower than normal can also help to extend the life of the tree. Check all electric lights and connections before decorating your tree and home. Do not use lights with worn or frayed cords and **never use lighted candles on your tree.** Don't overload electrical circuits. And, be sure to turn off all decorations before retiring at night or leaving home. Sensible precautions such as these will ensure a safe and happy holiday.

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