



How to Plant a Living Christmas Tree

Planting a living tree can be a great way to add to your landscape, extend the season, and add a fun family tradition. As with anything growing and alive a little preparation is in order for a successful experience.

1. It is best to think of where your tree will go in your yard and not focus so much on the space it will be placed in your house for Christmas.
2. Pre-Digging a hole before the ground freezes is best. Cover the hole and soil with leaves and other mulching materials so you can plant even if the ground is frozen.
3. Gradually introduce your tree to the indoors over 3-4 days by way of the garage or an enclosed porch. You don't want to break the trees dormancy by bringing it directly into a 65 degree house. You don't want it to quickly revert to the growing state.
4. Spraying your tree with an anti-desiccant will help keep moisture in its needles. The product we use is Wilt-Pruf.
5. When choosing a spot in the house try to get some place cool, preferably not near a heating duct.
6. Place the tree into a large galvanized bucket or rubber tub. You will need to keep the tree watered while in the house, and a bucket will keep messes to a minimum.
7. You may have to stabilize the tree if it is a balled and burlap root ball. Bricks or boards can help with this.
8. Adding mulch in the bucket around the root will also help keep moisture in.
9. Water your tree to keep it moist but not a soggy consistency. A clever trick is to take ice cubes and let them melt into the much.
10. Your tree has been in a dormant state and you will not want to keep it in the house for more than 4-5 days
11. After the holidays plant your tree in the prepared hole, removing the burlap, any wire cages, or roping that may be around it. The root ball should be no deeper than ground level and maybe even an inch or so taller than the ground giving it room to settle into the soil. Press in the soil around the root ball and cover with a layer of mulch.
12. Watering is the key to success in any tree or shrub planting, even in the winter. Water once a week deeply until the ground is frozen. If you have a thaw, bring a bucket of water out to your tree and give it a drink.