

Living Christmas Trees



Many people are discovering that they can have both a Christmas tree in their home and a beautiful, permanent addition to their landscape. Living Christmas trees are the answer!

For enjoyment throughout the holiday season, please observe the following guidelines:

- ♦ **Keep the tree inside for only three to five days, or an absolute maximum of one week.**
- ♦ **Keep the room temperature as cool as possible.** Avoid placing the tree near sources of heat. Use only "cool" lights (small twinkle types) on the tree. A spray product named Wilt Stop is helpful in keeping your tree fresh.
- ♦ **Keep the soil in the rootball damp or moist.** Do not allow it to dry out or sit in standing water. Place a tray or double plastic bag arrangement under the tree to protect your floor.
- ♦ **Keep temperature changes minimal.** When moving the tree in or out of your home, place it in an unheated garage or comparable location for a day or two if the difference between indoor and outdoor temperatures exceeds 30 degrees or so.
- ♦ **Plant your tree as soon as possible after the holiday season.** Delay in planting may increase the chance of problems. Damage to the roots could occur if they are above ground during a cold snap or dry spell. Please refer to the planting instructions on the other side of this page.

If you have questions about how to best care for your tree, we're happy to help!
Start a family tradition with a living Christmas tree.

Because home conditions vary (*indoor temperatures, humidity, etc.*) , Valley Nursery is unable to warranty living Christmas trees that have been in the home.



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Soil Preparation

Traditional gardening practices have long recommended the incorporation of organic matter, such as peat moss, compost, and manures into the soil prior to planting. The belief was the enriched and lightened soil would ease the plant in adjusting to the native soil.

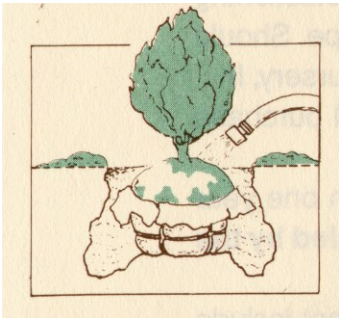
Recent studies have shown that such treatment, unless done throughout the entire planting area, can hinder the plant. The improved soil will attract and hold moisture with a greater capacity than the surrounding soil, often leading to a pool of water at the bottom of the planting site and waterlogged conditions.

It is recommended, however, to add organic matter to rapidly draining native soil. This will aid in holding moisture around the roots until the plant is established.

Dig the planting hole at least twice the diameter of the root ball or container and deep enough so the plant will be setting even or slightly above the level of the native soil after planting. Blend in a transplant type fertilizer, either granular or liquid, into the soil that will surround the roots, following label instructions.

In areas of very heavy and poorly drained soil, it may be necessary to place the plant considerably higher than the native soil. Construct a gently sloping mound so the plants are not standing in water.

PLANTING BALLED AND BURLAPPED PLANTS



Balled in burlap plants are field grown and dug with a ball of native soil around the roots. The ball is wrapped with burlap and secured with nails and twine. They are usually held in the nursery in sawdust beds so the roots can grow through the burlap and into the sawdust. The burlap will decompose with time, so complete removal is not always necessary. This root ball must not be allowed to dry out or be exposed to extreme conditions before planting.

1. Place plant in proper sized hole.
2. Cut the twine that is tightly wrapped around the base of the plant.
3. Peel back the burlap and twine away from the top of the root ball.
4. Backfill with native soil, enriched with transplant fertilizer, to the proper level. Leave twine and burlap in the hole.
5. Construct a ridge of soil or berm around the plant with the leftover soil. This will create a basin to hold water.
6. Water in immediately.