



Happy Holidays!

Through the
Garden
Gate

December Gardening Tips and Reminders

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Happy Holidays!

The holiday season is here and all of us at Through the Garden Gate would like to wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season. Visit the store this month and discover the magic of the holiday season. We have beautiful ornaments; holiday decor and great holiday decorating ideas.

Caring for a Christmas Tree

Your local nursery will stock an assortment of sizes and varieties of Christmas trees. Most common include: Fraser Fir, Douglas Fir, Noble Fir, White Pine, Scotch Pine and Blue Spruce.

Proper care of your Christmas tree is the best assurance against a short life due to loss of moisture, loss of color, and needle drop. With a few simple tips you can keep your tree fresh and beautiful to be enjoyed throughout the entire holiday season.

When you purchase a cut tree, ask the nursery to take the additional step and place a fresh cut on the bottom. If you go home and put the tree up and in water within two hours, this cut should be sufficient. If you plan to put the tree up the next day or in a couple of days; make certain the tree is stored in a cool, shady place and in a bucket full of water. You can sprinkle the foliage and bark daily with water to protect it from the drying winds. Once a tree has dried out, it will not recover. When you are ready to decorate, place another fresh cut on the bottom of the tree and immediately place it in the stand and fill with water. Keep this filled each day since the warm temperature and dry air in your home will cause the tree to absorb water very rapidly.

It is always best to obtain a fresh tree, provide a fresh cut, water daily and remove the tree from your home when the needles become brittle and fall off.

Safety First

Be sure your tree is well supported and is away from every source of heat. This includes radiators, air ducts and TV sets. This will help keep the loss of moisture to a minimum.

Open flames should never be used on or near your Christmas tree(s).

Check electric lights and connections. Worn, frayed wires or electric cords must not be used in order to avoid any type of spark when in direct contact with the tree(s).

Do not use combustible decorations or flammable reflectors and be certain to keep metal foil or tinsel out of bulb sockets.

Keep wrapping paper and other flammable material from accumulating under the tree.

Always turn off lights on the tree when unattended or when you are away from home.

Christmas Plants

Holiday plants provide color during the winter holidays. With the proper care, their flowers and fruits will survive the winter. Follow these basic tips and enjoy the colors of the season:

Water less than you would during the summer months and do not fertilize. Empty water from saucers after an hour. Most plants with dressy flowers and fruits will need bright need bright light, so do not display them in a dark location for long periods of time.

Avoid drafts, heat ducts and locations where temperatures are likely to fluctuate greatly. If plants are very close to windows, move them at night to prevent chilling. Remember however, that most plants do prefer cooler temperatures during the winter than at other times of the year.

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