

Care of Live Christmas Tree

by James A. Fizzell, Sr. Ext. Adviser
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The trend in recent years is that more and more homeowners like to have a live Christmas tree ... a growing tree with roots.

It is recommended that you take these steps in order to get the best results and pleasure from your live tree:

1. Now is the time to dig the hole where you anticipate planting the tree, preferably before the ground is frozen. Mulch the hole to prevent freezing too far down. Keep the soil from the hole where it will not freeze and can be used when you plant your live tree.

2. Keep the tree indoors for as short a time as possible. Make the change in temperature by a series of gradations ... perhaps one day in the garage, one day in a cool basement and then into the room where you plan to set it up and decorate it. Repeat this same process in reverse when you take it outdoors.

3. It is usually better if the supplier pots the tree for you. A balled and burlapped evergreen tree should be placed in a porous pot, but keep the pot small so it will be inconspicuous. Try the use of a plastic antidesiccant spray on the foliage before bringing the tree into the house.

4. Water the tree as you would a house plant. Water frequently and thoroughly but never let the soil get either dried out or muddy.

5. Indoor temperatures should be kept as cool as possible, especially at night. Be sure the tree does not receive direct sunlight, even through a window. Never place the tree near a fireplace or against an operating radiator or other source of heat.

6. Plant outdoors in the hole prepared for the tree. Use unfrozen soil in order to get it firm around the roots of the tree. Be sure to mulch well.

7. Soak the soil thoroughly after planting to firm it, and every month or so if the temperature remains mild and there is no rain. Watering will be necessary during droughty periods next summer, too.

It is fun to have a live Christmas tree. Use it indoors at Christmas and then use it outdoors as an evergreen in your foundation planting or as a specimen tree where it will remind you of Christmas past.

"Penn State Wins Tournament"

by Dudley Smith
Silver Lake C.C.

The October golf outing at Wilmette Golf Club was played on a cold blustery day; the grounds were soggy from recent flooding; and mittens, rainwear and schnapps were the uniform of the day.

The annual collegiate tournament was played as scheduled and the Nittany Lion Alumni from Penn State are the 1986 champions. Ed Fischer, David Louttit, Dave Blomquist and Bill Douglas outscored the Fighting Illini who finished second.

Graduates in turf from Purdue, Rutgers, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Michigan State, and Amherst also played in the event.

Veteran Bill Krafft, 71, Valparaiso Country Club, Amherst Class of 1946, was individual champion with gross score of 80. (His schnapps was unleaded).

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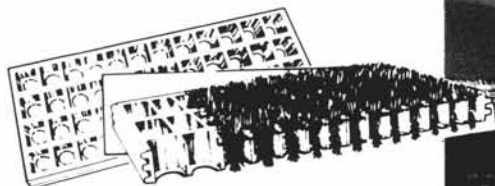
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