

December 3, 2013

Christmas trees

When you plan to buy a live balled Christmas tree, to be planted in the lawn or garden, select your tree now, at your local nursery. Your best choices for a balled live Christmas tree, is the Norway spruce (Blue Spruce is also O.K to use) If your soil drains slow do not plant a Frasier Fir, they are prone to phytophthora. Have it tagged and keep the tree at the nursery. A few days before Christmas pick up your tree. Only keep your live balled Christmas tree indoors for less than one week. Dig your planting hole now for the tree, incase the soil is frozen after Christmas. Also have Baccto sphagnum peat moss and a bag of mulch on hand. The Baccto sphagnum peat moss will be mixed with your soil when planting the tree. Make sure to cover the hole so that no one can fall or trip into it. Use fencing or a cover.

The live tree should be planted in a sunny location.

Cut trees - Best trees are : Fraser Fir , and Douglas Fir (Do not use spruces as a cut tree for indoor use)

Near the top of the tree, check the freshness of the tree by bending the branch.

Hit the stem on the ground , look for excessive needle drop.

Make sure you make a fresh cut of the trunk, before putting it in the stand.

Keep the reservoir full of water and add Prolong to the water.

Never let the tree dry out

Spray tree with [Winter shield](#) before bringing the tree indoors (except blue tree)

Lawn

Areas in your lawn with poor drainage can be aerated and [Ditomite](#) can be spread after aeration, to help with the drainage. Use one 25 lb bag of Ditomite for every 500 sqft and repeat this process for several years.

Continue to remove leaves from your lawn, if needed.

Pests

Mice in garages, campers, and sheds can be eliminated with [havoc](#) (havoc will also kill rats). One week later replace the havoc with [Bonide mouse magic](#), to keep new rodents from moving in.

Flowers

Cut Chrysanthemums down to 2-3 inches and mulch with one inch of shredded hardwood bark, to protect the roots from winter damage. Any unplanted Dutch flower bulbs should be planted as soon as possible. Feed new and existing flower bulbs with [Garden Trust](#), if this was not done earlier.

Christmas gift ideas. [Earthway Products roozensonline.com](#) now has these products discounted for Christmas.

Shrubs

Protect evergreens (Arborvitae, Boxwood, Jap. Yews) from snow damage by tying them with [stretch tie](#). (make them look like a tied up christmas tree)