

November 26, 2012

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. 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, in case the soil is frozen after Christmas. Also have Monrovia planting compost and a bag of mulch on hand. The compost 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.

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.

After your last mowing winterize your lawn mower. (Consult your owners manual for maintenance procedure) If you do not want to do this yourself, bring your mower to a service shop for this to be done. You can also have a tune up and blade sharpening done at the same time if needed. Your mower will now be ready for next spring. (most service shops will not be busy this time of year, compared to early spring)

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 [plant trust flower and bulb formula](#), if this was not done earlier.

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)