

Try a Living Christmas Tree this year..... by Randy Lueth

As the Holiday season approaches we all begin to evaluate what type of Christmas tree we're going to get this year. For those of you that would like to try something different and more sustainable, I'd like to suggest a living Christmas tree. This means that you purchase a live potted tree, bring it into your house for a few days and then move it back outside. This may sound like a lot of work but with a little planning it can be fun and it's great to have your Christmas tree growing in your yard next summer.

Find a tree that is smaller than usual as you'll be moving a root-ball along with a tree. Spruce species in the 2'- 3' range should be manageable. Spruce trees are usual Christmas tree species and they should survive the rigors of a 60 degree swing in temperature. If you have sliding glass patio doors this also helps as you can decorate and enjoy the tree while it is still out of doors and only move it inside for a couple days.

Water the tree well and let it absorb as much water as possible before you move it inside. Keep the decorations simple. Remember all this stuff should be easy to remove before you move it back outside. Don't use individual string tinsel or hot lights with large bulbs. Water the tree well again after you move it outside and keep the pot covered in straw or snow for the rest of the winter. The biggest threat to the survival of your tree is dehydration. Plant it as soon as the frost is gone and you can get it into the ground.

If you'd like more info there are several informative websites. Use the phrase "living Christmas trees" in your web-search and have a great holiday.

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