

Christmas Tree Care

The sentiment of the Christmas tree as the focal point of our decorations for the season is understandable. And, if you follow a few simple steps, selecting your perfect tree can be an enjoyable experience.

While it may seem obvious, give some thought to where your tree will be displayed. Consider height, width, and color. Will you only see your tree from one side or will it be visible from all sides?

Next, decide if you want to purchase a pre-cut tree or if you want to get yours from one of the area's Christmas tree farms. A quick search on the web will provide you with several options for harvesting your own tree and as you know, pre-cut trees are available from a variety of locations.

Oklahoma hosts several native-grown trees such as Virginia pine, Leyland cypress, white pine, and Arizona cypress. You will find good options in pre-cut trees such as Fraser fir, Noble fir, Douglas Fir, and Nordmann fir.... all of which have a wonderful fragrance, good needle retention, and will retain freshness. Each of these will also hold ornaments well.

When selecting your pre-cut tree, freshness is always key. To determine freshness, bend the needles. Fresh needles on the firs and spruces will snap kind of like a carrot and are not brittle. Pine needles will bend but break only if they are dry. Of course, the freshest of trees are those you cut and take home.

Once you get your tree home, you should saw about an inch off the bottom and place it in a container of water. If you purchased your tree and it will be several days until you bring it in to decorate, you should store the tree in a cool shaded area.

Upon bringing your tree in, you should keep its base in water the entire period it is in use. No water additives are needed, but keeping the base in water is a must.

Be sure the tree stand is strong enough to support your decorated tree without falling over as decorations can add more weight to your tree that you might think.

Also, make sure your tree is away from heat sources as these tend to prematurely dry out the trees and increase the fire risk level.

Don't leave the lights lit on the tree unless a responsible person is at home.

Finally, remove the tree before it becomes overly dry. The longer the tree is indoors, the greater the risk of it drying out.

If you follow these tips, you will be well on the way to having a Christmas tree you will remember for years to come.