

## **Christmas Tree Disposal**

There are a number of ways to dispose of your live cut tree after the holidays and some are more environmentally friendly than others. The first thing to do is to remove everything that is artificial off of the tree – tinsel, ornaments, décor, etc.

Using the branches as a mulch for gardeners is an excellent approach. Trim off all of the branches and lay them across your flower beds. They will provide protection from frequent thawing and freezing, especially for perennials and ground covers. As they decompose, they will add nutrients to the soil like nitrogen. If you compost, you can trim or shred the branches and add them to the compost. The needles and branches will provide the needed “greens” to balance the “browns” that are provided from leaves, both of which are necessary for the microbes to break down the material.

Another option is to use the disposed tree as a bird sanctuary during the cold months. Tie it to a tree near your birdfeeders and the birds will appreciate you. It not only adds protection for the small birds, but you can hang suet and small bird feeders on it. When the needles are dry and start dropping off, you can add these to your flower beds like pine straw.

If you know of someone who has a pond, the trees are great additions when immersed in the water and provide protection for small or baby fish – and Crappie in the big lakes love bundles of trees in the water. You may have to check with someone from the Fish and Wildlife Department to see if they are interested in picking the tree up or they may have you take it to a designated lake.

It can also be taken to the City of Tulsa’s Green Waste Site at 2100 North 145<sup>th</sup> East Ave. It is open 7 days a week from 7:30 am to 5 p.m. excluding any city holidays. It will be shredded into mulch to be used by you or the public as well as the City Parks Department.

One final option is that the City of Tulsa curbside pickup service will collect trees in January. The trees must be free of any decorations, and will need to be cut into 4-foot sections.