



Care of Holiday Plants, Wreaths and Trees

Characteristics of Species Used as Christmas Trees

Species	Fragrance	Color	Needle length	Needle retention
Concolor Fir	Very good	Bluish green	1 ½-2 inches	Very good
Norway Spruce	Good	Green	½-1 inch	Poor
White Spruce	Poor	Green to dull blue-green	½- ¾ inch	Fair to poor
Blue Colorado Spruce	Good	Blue green	¾ - 1 ¼ inch	Good
Austrian Pine	Good	Dark green	3-6 inches	Excellent
Eastern White Pine	Excellent	Bluish green	2-4 inches	Excellent
Scots Pine	Good	Bluish green	1-3 inches	Excellent
Douglasfir	Very good	Bluish green	1 -1 ½ inches	Very Good

Selecting a Fresh Tree

- Select a tree with a healthy green appearance and good fragrance
- A fresh tree has few brown needles
- The needles should be flexible
- Run a branch through your hand. The needles should stay on.
- Very few green needles should be shed when tree is shaken lightly or the stump is gently bumped on the ground

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Caring for Your Tree

Not setting the tree up right away?

- store in a cool area away from wind and sun
- make a fresh cut on the base of the trunk, removing a one inch thick slice
- place the cut end in a bucket of water

Once the tree is indoors

- make another fresh, one inch thick cut on the base of the trunk
- place the tree in a sturdy stand that holds at least a gallon of water
- use plain water in the stand; additives are not needed
- keep the cut end of the trunk below the water line
- if the water drops below the cut end, sap may seal the cut in 4-6 hours
- if a seal forms, make another fresh cut

In General

- the tree may absorb as much as a gallon of water in the first 24 hours; and one or more quarts per day after that
- keep the tree away from drafts and heat sources
- a fresh tree, with proper care, may last as long as 5 weeks