

REEMS CREEK NURSERY

# Caring for your Cut Christmas Tree

## A Garden Guide

North Carolina is one of the top Christmas Tree producers in the nation. When you buy one of our local Christmas trees, you are supporting a local tree farmer. These trees are eco-friendly, completely biodegradable, and NOT manufactured in China from plastic and metal. Tree farmers constantly plant baby trees, to ensure a steady supply year after year. Christmas tree farms create oxygen; support deer, quail, rabbits, songbirds, and turkeys; and prevent soil erosion. Fraser Firs, the most popular tree available, is **native** to the high mountains of WNC. Nothing beats the enchanting aroma of a local fresh cut Christmas tree!



To keep your tree as fresh as possible, it's all about moisture.

We do cut the base of the tree for customers. If you are unable to get your tree in a water-filled tree stand (or water-filled bucket) within 3 to 6 hours, recutting will be necessary. A fresh cut will reopen the pores that take up water, ensuring your tree stays as well hydrated as possible. Cuts only need to be 1/2 inch.

The outer plant tissue layers absorb water. Make cuts straight across, instead of an angle or a "V" cut, to keep as much of that tissue as intact as possible.

If your tree does not fit your stand, get a larger stand instead of trying to whittle the tree to fit your current one, which can lead to a dried out and unstable tree. We do carry tree stands.

**Check your tree stand daily for water.** Use rain water or plain tap water. Generally, a tree can use up to one quart of water per day for each inch of stem diameter, and in the first 24 hours, a cut tree may drink an entire gallon.

**Avoid placing the tree near heat sources** (fireplaces, heaters, heat vents, and direct sunlight). Lowering the room temperature will slow the drying process. Avoid using Christmas lights with frayed cords, and turn off lights at night or whenever you leave your home. If the needles break easily or fall off in your hand, the tree is dry and should be removed. Trees can be composted, mulched, or recycled. Version 1.0 Dec 20

