

# Living Christmas Tree Care Guide

## BEFORE TAKING A TREE INDOORS:

1. Place the tree in partial outdoor sunlight for 1 week prior to taking indoors and water daily. (this will help to acclimate the tree before taking indoors.) When watering, thoroughly soak the tree until a substantial amount of water is flowing out of the bottom drain holes.
2. The day before taking the tree indoors, wash off the tree with a water hose to remove dust and insects. Dead needles may have naturally accumulated in older trees. Simply clean out the needles by hand.
3. Finally, we suggest spraying your tree with *Cloud Cover* to protect against dehydration.

## CARING FOR A LIVE TREE INDOORS:

1. Set the tree in a large tray to catch water overflow and protect flooring. When watering, the use of ice cubes will help to keep the tree cool and hopefully keep it from breaking dormancy.
2. The tree is only to be left indoors for 7 days, otherwise it will begin to break dormancy and will not survive outdoors.
3. Place the tree in front of, or as near as possible to a window.
4. Keep the room temperature as cool as possible, and *DO NOT* place the tree near a fireplace or heater duct.

## REMOVING A TREE FROM INDOORS:

1. Trees can be wind-burned and are prone to sun scald if left on the south or west side of a house. Place trees in the shade and out of the wind until ready to plant. Water the tree thoroughly after transferring outdoors, and water once a week thereafter unless sufficient natural moisture occurs.

NOTE: Trees may be planted any time during winter if the soil is not frozen. It is best to plant the tree as soon as possible. If left in a pot, water every 3-5 days.

## PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Dig saucer-shaped hole 3 to 5 times as wide as the root ball. Depth should be exactly that of the root ball. (*important note: when digging hole, make rough edges around the hole, not smooth*)
2. Mix original soil with an equal amount of *Warner's Supreme Planting Mix*. (coverage chart below)
3. Water plant thoroughly before removing from container.
4. Gently remove plant from container: support stem, turn pot upside down, tap bottom of pot, remove pot (if pot does not remove carefully cut it off).
5. Place plant into hole along with Agriform Fertilizer Tablets  $\frac{1}{2}$  way between the side of the hole and the root ball. *Important: Tablets must not touch plant's root system.*
6. If applicable, leave burlap/wire on root ball but gently fold back burlap exposing trunk and 4" of soil.
7. Support root ball by backfilling  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the hole with a mix of soil and *Warner's Supreme Planting Mix*.
8. Prevent transplant shock and promote vigorous root growth by adding a root stimulator/water mixture at this point.
9. After completely backfilling hole with *Supreme Planting Mix*, dig a water-holding tree well around plant's drip-line.
10. Apply 3-4" *Warner's Garden Mulch* starting 1-2 ft. out from the base of the trunk ( it is important *NOT* to apply mulch around base of trunk to avoid fungus and rot ) and lay weed fabric to help conserve moisture, prevent weeds, and maintain moderate soil temperatures.
11. Stake new trees to offer protection against high winds. Stake Pine and Aspen before cutting twine wrapped around trunk.

Watering Schedule	Week 1-3	Week 4 - 1st frost	Year 2-3	Year 3 & Older
<b>Trees &amp; Shrubs</b>	generous watering once/day midday	water once every other day	water 2-3 times/week (April - August) Winter: once/week	Summer: 2-3 times/week, Winter: once/week
<b>1 Gallon Shrubs &amp; Perennials</b>	week 1: 2 times/day week 2-3: 1 time/day	once every other day	Check ground moisture often to determine watering needs.	Check ground moisture often to determine watering needs.