



# Garden Talk

## Keeping Christmas Trees Fresh

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A tree that remains beautiful through the season is a tree that was bought fresh and kept fresh. Here are a few simple tests for freshness.

### Tip 1:

Place a needle between your thumb and forefinger and bend it. A needle from a fresh tree should bend rather than break, have a strong fragrance and good color.

### Tip 2:

A fresh tree should have good weight to it, meaning the tree has plenty of moisture left in the trunk and limbs.

### Tip 3:

If you're not ready to decorate, keep the tree outdoors in a cool spot, protected from the drying effects of the sun and wind. Make a fresh, diagonal cut across the trunk and immediately place it in a large container of lukewarm water. If the water level is allowed to drop below the cut, a seal will form and a fresh cut will be necessary again.

### Tip 4:

Before placing the tree on the stand indoors, make a fresh cut, straight through the trunk to maximize water intake.

### Tip 5:

Trees are thirsty. They may drink a pint of water or more a day so check the water level daily and supply fresh lukewarm water as needed. The freshness of the tree is prolonged by mixing Watters "tree preservative" with the water in your stand.

### Tip 6:

Watters "Wilt Stop" is a liquid sprayed on the foliage to prevent moisture loss for the needles. This one product will double freshness time of any tree.

### Tip 7:

The use of a "tree bag" will keep most needles out of your carpet when moving the tree outdoors, making cleanup easier at the end of the season.

### Tip 8:

Avoid use of combustible decorations. Do not use lights with worn or frayed cords and never use lighted candles. This will



ensure a safe and happy holiday.

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