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Live Christmas Tree Care

What is a live Christmas Tree?

Live Christmas trees are potted trees that can be placed indoors and decorated for a brief time before being moved outside and planted in the soil. Live Christmas trees are quite different from cut trees commonly used during the holidays and require specific care to survive.

Care

1. Keep the tree outside until ready to bring in the house. If outside temperatures are below freezing, bring it into a garage or other protected area to slowly thaw before bringing indoors.
2. **Do not keep your tree indoors for more than 5-7 days!** If kept in a warm place for longer, the tree will break dormancy. Moving it outside or planting past this time could result in death. You can decorate the tree with lights and simple ornaments on your porch before moving it indoors.
3. Keep away from heat sources; fireplaces, heaters, TVs, etc.
4. Keep it watered—do not let it dry out. Water before bringing it inside, and check every few days. Soil should be moist, not soggy. Remember to water even when outside, as water insulates roots from the cold.
5. Keep it in a shady, protected spot before planting outside. The north side of houses tend to work well.
6. Planting after Holidays: Dig hole twice as wide and just as deep as the root ball. Mix native soil with 1/3 compost, and backfill firmly around the tree. Water deeply, and check monthly for soil moisture.

If you follow these instructions, you will be able to enjoy a beautiful live holiday display and enjoy the growth of the tree for years to come in your landscape!