

Cut Christmas Tree Care

Believe it or not, fresh cut Christmas tree stands will be everywhere before you know it! (I've already seen "cut your own" tree farm signs popping up along the roadsides!) And if you're the type of person who likes the aroma of a fresh Fraser Fir wafting throughout the house the day after Thanksgiving, here are some tips for keeping your tree nice and happy for the following weeks:

1. The most effective way to maintain your tree is to display it in a typical basin or reservoir type stand.
2. Once you get your tree home, make a fresh cut to remove about a ½ inch disk of wood off the trunk. Just make a straight cut. Don't cut at an angle – this will make it harder to hold the tree in place in the stand, and it also reduces the amount of water available to the tree.
3. If needed, you can temporarily store your tree in a cool location for a few days, but make sure to keep it in a bucket full of water.
4. Once set up indoors, make sure the tree stand can hold about 1 gallon of water.
5. Use a stand that will fit your tree, don't shave down the sides of the tree to make it fit into a stand. Removing the outer layers of wood greatly reduces the tree's ability to take up water.
6. Try to keep your tree away from heat sources. This will slow the drying process (lowering room temperature will help also).
7. Check your tree stand daily for water level – make sure the level of water does not go below the trunk of the tree.
8. When decorating, use miniature lights (which produce low heat) – this will reduce the drying process.
9. Inspect your light sets before decorating to check for wear. Replace if needed.
10. Do not overload electrical outlets.
11. Turn off lights when going to bed or when leaving the house.
12. Keep checking your tree for freshness. After the holiday or once it dries out, remove it from the house.
13. Generally, fresh cut trees (if using the steps above) should last for at least five weeks before drying out.

So there you have it... the only issue you still might have is keeping the cat from climbing the tree and unfortunately I don't have any tips for that. If you have some, please let me know! It might seem a little early but I'll say it anyway... Merry Christmas!



- Heather Neuin
Pennsylvania Pride Grow Team