

## Living Holiday Tree Care

Celebrate the Holiday Season by decorating a beautiful living tree. You can enjoy the tree for years to come as a permanent landscape plant after using the tree for a year or two as your holiday tree. Follow these instructions to ensure that your tree stays in good health throughout the transition from outdoors to indoors.

**We recommend keeping the tree indoors for the least amount of time as possible 5 - 7 days is ideal**

The less time indoors, the better. Remember, your tree is dormant. If the tree remains indoors or too warm for more than a week, it may break dormancy or start growing and it will then suffer damage when placed back outdoors in the cold. In a heated interior, the humidity is much lower than outdoor plants prefer, and they can lose moisture quickly. You might consider placing the tree pot on a rolling cart or dolly and moving it outside overnight for the holiday season or try creating a family tradition by bringing it inside and decorating on Christmas Eve.

### Inside your home

Your room should be kept as cool as possible; avoid placing tree near heating vents, fireplaces etc. Check moisture daily, making sure the root ball is moist, not just the soil surface. It helps to water slowly, allowing a little at a time to soak into the root ball. Ice cubes work great for this, as well as keeping the roots cool. Protect the floor or carpet from spills and water seepage. Avoid using spray flocking, which will harm the tree. If your tree has been in too warm a location with too low humidity for too long, it will likely NOT show damage until it comes out of dormancy in spring.

### Moving your tree outdoors

Once moved back outdoors the tree should either be properly planted in its permanent location, or temporarily placed where the root ball will be sheltered from harsh freezes. If the temperature outside is continuously below about 25°F, keep your tree in a protected, but cool, area until it warms up above freezing. Water your tree thoroughly once you have moved it outside. If you plan on using the tree for another year indoors, make sure the tree is watered throughout the summer season on a regular basis and in a sunny location.

We hope you enjoy your living holiday tree this season and outside for many years to come.