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GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By **CHRISTINE COLE**
**GREEN
THUMB
GARDENING**

CARING FOR YOUR CUT

CHRISTMAS TREE

Each year many of us go to a great effort to select the perfect Christmas tree. But proper care is required to keep it fresh, resilient and holding its needles throughout the holiday season.

Follow these few rules to prolong the life of your cut Christmas tree:

*Store the tree outside until you are ready to bring it indoors for decorating. During this time keep it protected from the sun and drying winds. A protected porch or patio is an ideal spot.

*Just before you bring the tree indoors, make a fresh cut across the butt about 1" above the original cut. This opens up the stem for better water absorption.

*Keep water in the tree stand at all times. It should not drop below the cut or it will reseal and water absorption will be impeded. Trees use about one to four quarts of water per day! A nutrient solution added to the water is also beneficial.

*Place tree in house away from heat sources such as fireplaces, ventilators, radiators, etc.

If you think of your Christmas trees like a cut flower and care for it in a similar manner and follow the above tips it will ensure your tree is attractive for several weeks.

Each week Christine Cole of Tuitman's Garden Centre and Landscaping, Highway 25, 1 mile south of Acton, 853-2480, will be presenting helpful tips and information to assist you in creating your garden show-place!

**TUITMAN'S
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