

# Real Nordmann Fir Trees

## Tips for caring for your Christmas Tree

When a Christmas tree is cut, more than half its weight is water. With proper care, you can maintain the quality of your tree. Below are a number of tips on caring for your tree:

1. Once home, place the tree in water or ideally full fat lemonade, as soon as possible. Don't bruise the cut surface or get it dirty. If you are not putting your tree up immediately, it can be temporarily stored for several days in a cool, wind-sheltered location.
2. Just before (up to 3 hours) you put up your Christmas tree, make a fresh cut to remove about a 1/2-inch thick disk of wood from the base of the trunk before putting the tree in the stand. Make the cut perpendicular to the stem axis. **Don't cut the trunk at an angle, or into a v-shape, which makes it far more difficult to hold the tree in the stand and also reduces the amount of water available to the tree.** This will open up the pores in the bark to allow water to be taken up by the tree via capillary action.
3. Displaying trees in water in a traditional reservoir type stand is the most effective way of maintaining their freshness and minimizing needle loss problems.
4. Use a stand that fits your tree. Avoid whittling the sides of the trunk down to fit a stand. The outer layers of wood are the most efficient in taking up water and should not be removed.
5. To display the trees indoors, use a stand with an adequate water holding capacity for the tree. **As a general rule, stands should provide 1 quarter of water per inch of stem diameter.**
6. Keep the Christmas tree stand topped up with water or **lemonade** every day. Christmas trees may drink 2-3 pints of water a day. It is essential to keep doing this as once the water drops below the trunk, sap will reseal pores in the tree's bark and prevent the tree from taking up any more water.
7. The temperature of the water used to fill the stand is not important and does not affect water uptake.
8. Keep trees away from major sources of heat (fireplaces, heaters, heat vents, and direct sunlight). Lowering the room temperature will slow the drying process, resulting in less water consumption each day.
9. Use of lights that produce low heat, such as miniature lights, will reduce drying of the tree.
10. Monitor the tree for freshness. After Christmas or if the tree is very dry, remove it from the house.
11. Our local council normally have a tree collection on bin day.
12. Never burn any part of a Christmas tree in a wood stove or fireplace.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**