

## Caring Tips for Your Cut Tree

### How to Care for Your Farm-Grown Christmas Tree

1. Displaying trees in water in a traditional reservoir type stand is the most effective way of maintaining their freshness and minimizing needle loss problems.
2. Use a stand with an adequate water holding capacity for the tree. **As a general rule, stands should provide 1 quart of water per inch of stem diameter.**
3. 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.
4. 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 and make the cut perpendicular to the stem. Drilling a hole in the base of the trunk does **NOT** improve water uptake.
5. Once home, place the tree in warm water as soon as possible. Most species can go 6 to 8 hours after cutting the trunk and still take up water. If needed, trees can be temporarily stored for several days in a cool location. Place the freshly cut trunk in a bucket that is kept full of water.
6. Check the stand daily to make sure that the level of water does not go below the base of the tree. Keep trees away from major sources of heat (fireplaces, heaters, heat vents, direct sunlight). Lowering the room temperature will also slow the drying process.
7. Use of lights that produce low heat will reduce drying of the tree. Always inspect light sets prior to use. Do not overload electrical circuits and always turn off the tree lights when leaving the house.
8. Never burn any part of a Christmas tree in a wood stove or fireplace. After Christmas or if the tree is very dry, remove it from the house.

*Tips and more information located on the National Christmas Tree Association website*