

Caring for your fresh cut Fraser Fir

These traditional Christmas tree species can be found at nearly every tree lot or choose-and-cut farm. Fraser Fir has grown in popularity by leaps and bounds over the past 20 years for good reason.

Fraser Fir (*Abies fraseri*) from the northern forests of Canada and the US is a well-formed tree with dark green, flat needles with silvery undersides and strong upturned branches that hold ornaments well. They have a pleasant scent and needle retention is excellent.

Caring for your fresh cut tree-

Maintaining a fresh tree with proper care is probably the best fire prevention, but no matter how well you care for a tree, it is not likely to remain fresh much longer than three weeks or so.

- Store tree in a bucket of warm water in a cool, wind free area, such as an unheated garage until tree is ready to be brought indoors.
- Prior to placing in a water-holding tree stand, make a fresh cut approximately 1" on the bottom of the trunk to aid in water uptake. Keep the cut end in water at all times.
- A tree in a warm dry room will go through water rapidly. Check the water level daily. The use of a Christmas tree preservative, in the water such as Prolong will help in extending the life of your tree.
- Avoid placing a tree near hot or cold drafts which promotes needle drop.
- For disposal; Cut up into evergreen boughs and place on top of perennials or low growing plants. This provides protection, especially in late winter.