



POT-GROWN TREE CARE ADVICE



Timings

Although it has become popular to start decorating our homes from the beginning of December, traditionally Christmas starts on 25 December and Advent is the season of waiting and preparation 4 Sundays and weeks before Christmas. Twelfth Night, the 5th or 6th January, depending on who you ask, represents the end of Christmas and was when families used to celebrate with cake, music, games and wassailing as it marks Epiphany, when the three wise men came to visit Jesus. Folklore also used to say the tree spirits would make their homes in the trees and needed to be back outside to ensure a good harvest. From a tree's perspective, being inside for the shortest length of time is good news.

Getting your tree home

You can ask us to deliver your tree to your home. But if you collect your tree from the farm you might want to consider the following ideas: Transporting your tree - Thread the tree through a back window, base first and place the base in the passenger foot well with the top of the tree resting near the back windscreen in the opposite corner, reclining the passenger seat might help.

Settling your tree in

Avoid bringing the tree straight into a hot home. Water the root ball as soon as you get home and let the water drain off for 24 hours before wrapping it back in to the plastic to preserve moisture. . Store in a cool place until you're ready to bring it into your home. The RHS advises that rootballed trees do better if they are not inside for more than 12 days - this improves their chances when planted back out. Keep the room they are in as cool as possible - avoiding dramatic changes in temperature also helps.

Christmas Care

Think of your tree like a houseplant or cut flowers in that it needs a constant supply of water which needs topping up regularly. However, too much and your potted tree will die of trench foot, too little and the needles will turn brown and fall. Good drainage and a saucer to catch excess water are important. Check the soil everyday. Avoid placing your tree close to a fire or radiator.

Back to the ground

Trees that have been well cared for stand a good chance of surviving being planted outside.



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