



CARING FOR YOUR TREE



Timings

Although it has become popular to start decorating our homes from the beginning of December, traditionally Christmas starts on 25 December. 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, when families used to celebrate with cake, music, games and wassailing. 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.

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. Some people use the tree as a bird feeder for a little while!

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 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.

We will come and collect your tree or you can deliver it back to us. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page to find out when we are ready to welcome trees back. If you put your tree outside before this remember to keep it sheltered and watered. We will plant your tree in a sheltered but sunny spot with its friends and keep an eye on her through the year, mulching her roots with straw and alpaca poo.

Unpredictable Nature

Leaving your tree with us is a shared adventure! We never know how it will turn out. Your tree may grow new branches and sprout new needles. It may grow more on one side than another, and some lower branches may die away as it reaches for the sky. It will not look the same as the one you left with us, and we hope that you can embrace its individual efforts to survive and thrive. We may have to give it a little prune to improve its appearance and you might want to consider having a look at your tree in late November so you have an idea what will be coming back to you.

So, we will try our best to take care of your tree, but there is no guarantee that it will survive and grow. The time inside might prove too much for some and nature is unpredictable. In this case, unfortunately there is no refund or replacement tree. However, the alpacas love a tree to scratch and nibble on!

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