

## Guide to Ensuring the Quality of Christmas Trees in

# *Cold Climates*

### *In Storage:*



#### **While in Storage Prior to Displaying:**

1. If possible, store trees in a refrigerated trailer or warehouse set at 40° Fahrenheit with moisture level at 90%.
2. When stored outside, cover trees with tarps, particularly in freezing temperatures.
3. Consider renting a tent or constructing shelters made from plywood to protect trees from harsh weather conditions.
4. Keep trees off the pavement by putting them on tarps or pallets.
5. Some trees, such as West Coast Douglas fir, do not tolerate storage or display below freezing weather and cold dry wind.

### *On Display:*



#### **Displaying Trees on the Lot:**

1. To prevent limb breakage, unbale and fluff out the trees when the temperature is above freezing, or in a warm area.
2. Display only a small portion of your inventory at a time. Trees unsold each day should either be restacked and covered with tarps at night or moved to a more sheltered area to minimize their exposure to the cold.
3. When weather is above freezing, display trees in water with a fresh cut off the butt of the tree. (A good practice for all firs.)
4. Some species (particularly coastal Douglas fir) do not tolerate below freezing weather. Display in a warehouse or warmed tent when weather is below the freezing level.
5. Instruct your customers on the proper care of their tree. The importance of keeping trees moist cannot be stressed enough.

### *At Home:*



#### **Instructions to Your Customer:**

1. Cut about an inch or two off of the end of the trunk.
2. Place the tree in a bucket of water with Tree Life nutrient, if they plan to keep it outside until they are ready to display it indoors.
3. Maintain water level above the base of the tree.
4. Keep the tree in a shaded area away from wind.
5. When bringing the tree into the home use a water stand that holds at least 1 gallon of water.
6. A tree can absorb up to 2 gallons of water a day for the first couple of days and then less for the remainder of the season.



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