

Gardening Article

December days are colder, shorter, and usually a little damper than the past couple of months. Gardening is normally the last thing on our minds this month but that is alright because most plants need little care this month. However, if there is a need for a little break from all the festivities there are always weeds to pull.

There are many plants that are used to help decorate for the holiday spirit. Of course the Christmas tree, which I am sure all of you are familiar with. If you are considering a live Christmas tree this year here are some hints to keep your tree healthy. The root ball should be watered and foliage sprayed thoroughly before you bring it inside. Place the tree in a large waterproof saucer away from vents and fireplaces. Keep the tree evenly moist, and do not allow it to stay inside more than 10 days. To lessen the temperature shock, place the tree in a garage or porch for a few days before planting it.

Amaryllis is probably the most popular bulb for the holiday season. They will bloom for a couple of weeks if grown inside. After the blooming has ceased remove the faded flowers, but don't cut the green stalk or leaves. To get your money's worth don't throw these beauties away place them outside in the garden and they will bloom again next spring.

Last but not least is the poinsettia. To care for these plants place them in indirect light, keep away from cold drafts, and water only when the media feels dry. It is important that you don't over water or allow them to sit in water.

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