Christmas Tree Care

- Ensure to saw a couple inches off the bottom of the trunk. By sawing off the base, you will open up the pores, and the tree will be able to absorb water. When trees are cut, pitch oozes out and seals the pores. If you feel that has happened, cut the trunk again.

- Watering is critical. A freshly-cut tree can consume a gallon of water in 24 hours!

- Fill the tree stand with water and keep it filled. Never let the water level go below the tree's base.

- Keep the tree away from heating ducts or other heat sources. In fact, the lower the temperature, the better the tree will do.

Re-use your Tree

Before you toss this year's Christmas tree onto the compost pile or the curb, check out these ways to get the most out of an old tree!

- Trim the branches from the tree, and saw the trunk into several pieces. Tie the pieces together and store the bundle in the cellar. This will make an aromatic Yule fire in your fireplace next Christmas Eve.
- Create a bird feeder and haven. String your tree with orange slices, cranberries, homemade suet, and other bird-friendly goodies, and put it in a sheltered location.
- Use the branches and pine needles as mulch in the garden.
- Use boughs from your tree to shade broad-leaved evergreen shrubs, insulate perennials, or protect against frost and snow.
- A fir tree's foliage can be used for stuffing small fragrance pillows. Sew scraps of fabric together and fill them with the needles to make fragrant balsam sachets to freshen drawers and closets.
- Use dried-out sprigs to ignite kindling in your wood stove or fireplace.

Source: The Old Farmers Almanac - www.Almanac.com