Green Thumbs for Everyone

Hints for a Happy and Green Holiday Indoors and Out

By Dabney Morgan of Coleman Nursery

The cold weather is here and the holiday is right around the corner. Since plants are now disappearing with the cold weather, this is an excellent time to prune and shape your shrubs and trees. Keep in mind that once you cut them off, they will be excellent for you to use indoors for your decorating.

FIRE SAFETY. Be sure and practice good safety and keep the fresh trees and greens away from direct heat. Of course, be careful how long we leave them indoors because of fire hazard.

CHRISTMAS TREE & GREENS. Also to help you keep things fresher, there are commercial products on the market that you can spray on your greens to keep them from drying out. There are Christmas tree preservatives to keep your trees from losing their sap. Also, I have a home remedy that works quite well for your fresh Christmas trees. Now remember, the first thing that we do on our Christmas tree is make a fresh cut at the bottom of the tree.

Recipe for tree preservative:

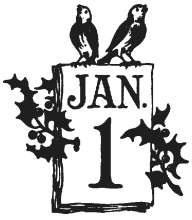
Use two aspirin,
1 cup of Karo syrup
1 quart of luke warm water.

Submerge the trunk of the tree in that solution as long as it will keep soaking it up. Always maintain an ample supply so that it continues soaking it up. This will help hold your needles longer through the season.

DECORATING INDOORS. During the holiday season, decorate indoors with blooming plants such as Christmas cactus and Poinsettias. To keep them fresh, keep them out of drafts and away from direct heat.

These plants will need to be watered regularly, but remember, with all blooming plants, it is better to keep them damp. Water often, but not soaking wet. Water sparingly so that consequently, you keep the soil damp, but not real wet.

REMEMBER OUR WILDLIFE. They have a limited food supply so this will be an excellent time to feed our wild birds, keeping a good supply of bird seed out for them. They will need water, so we want to keep a bird bath nearby as well.



When you make your New Year's resolution, you keep in mind to add gardening, conservation, and recycling. We always want to consider our environment. I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. This is Dabney signing off.

Adopt-a-Spot????????????????????