

Christmas Tree Care Discussed

The Forest Products Laboratory, after trying various chemical treatments suggested for making Christmas trees less inflammable, has concluded that keeping the tree standing in water is about the most practical, satisfactory, and convenient method, says John L. Reitzel, Wake farm agent.

The procedure recommended is as follows: (1) Buy a tree that has been cut recently. (2) Cut off the end of the trunk diagonally at least one inch above the original cut end, and stand the tree at once in a container of water, keeping the water level above the cut surface during the entire time the tree is in the house. If the tree is not to be set up for several days, it should be kept standing in water in a cool place.

If started in time this treatment

not only prevents the needles from drying out and becoming inflammable, but it will also keep them fresh and green and retard the fall of the needles, Mr. Reitzel points out.

Regardless of treatment all possible precautions against fire should be in effect around the Christmas tree, he warns. Defective electrical connections should be eliminated and an accumulation of combustible decorations should not be put on or beneath the tree. The tree should be placed so that its accidental burning will not ignite curtains or other combustible furnishings nor trap the occupants of a room or building.

Precaution to prevent fires is good business at any time but especially at Christmas with so many extra visitors—and extra wiring.



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