

# BOYLE BUDS & BLOOMS



## AGENT REMARKS



Season's Greetings! What a great first year it has been! Thank you to each one of you for attending my classes, supporting me and this program this year! I am already planning next years programs so be on the look out for what is to come at the start of the year.

Two great conferences are coming up in January; the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Oak Conference and the 2026 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable conference. Check out the dates at the end of the newsletter.

*Kaitlin Farlee*

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I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Cooperative  
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MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

# How To Care For Your Farm-Grown Fresh Christmas Tree

When a Christmas tree is cut, typically over half of its weight is water. With proper care, you can maintain the quality of your displayed trees. Below are a number of tips relating to the care of displayed trees:

1. Displaying trees in water in a traditional reservoir type stand is the most effective way of maintaining their freshness and minimizing needle loss problems.
2. Make a fresh cut to remove a 1/4" to 1" thick disk of wood from the base of the trunk before putting the tree in the stand. Make the cut perpendicular to the stem axis.
3. Don't cut the trunk at an angle, or into a v-shape, which makes it far more difficult to hold the tree in the stand and also reduces the amount of water available to the tree.
4. Once home, place the tree in water as soon as possible. Most species can go 6-8 hours after cutting the trunk and still take up water. Don't bruise the cut surface or get it dirty.
5. If needed, trees can be temporarily stored for several days in a cool location. Place the freshly cut trunk in a bucket that is kept full of water.
6. To display the trees indoors, use a stand with an adequate water holding capacity for the tree. As a general rule, stands should provide 1 quart of water per inch of stem diameter. Devices are available that help maintain a constant water level in the stand.
7. Use a stand that fits your tree. Avoid whittling the sides of the trunk down to fit a stand. The outer layers of wood are the most efficient in taking up water and should not be removed.
8. Keep displayed trees away from sources of heat (fireplaces, heaters, heat vents, direct sunlight). Lowering the room temperature will slow the drying process, resulting in less water consumption each day.
9. The temperature of the water used to fill the stand is not important and does not affect water uptake.
10. Check the stand daily to make sure that the level of water does not go below the base of the tree. With many stands, there can still be water in the stand even though the base of the tree is no longer submerged in water.
11. Drilling a hole in the base of the trunk does not improve water uptake.
12. Use of lights that produce low heat, such as miniature lights, will reduce drying of the tree.
13. Always inspect light sets prior to placing them on the tree. If worn, replace with a new set.
14. Do not overload electrical circuits.
15. Always turn off the lights when leaving the house or when going to bed.
16. Monitor the tree for freshness. After Christmas or if the tree is dry, remove it from the house.
17. Go to [www.realchristmastrees.org](http://www.realchristmastrees.org) and type in your zip code to find a recycling program near you.
18. Never burn any part of a Christmas tree in a wood stove or fireplace.

Prepared by Dr. Gary Chastagner and Dr. Eric Hinesley

Edited by the Scientific Research Committee of the National Christmas Tree Association

# Poinsettia Care

Source: United States Botanic Garden

Poinsettias (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) are popular houseplants at this time of year because they flower mid-winter. They are naturally found in warm climates, and do not like harsh winter temperatures. With proper care, a poinsettia can last throughout the holiday season.

Unwrap poinsettias. Take the pretty foil or plastic wrap off of the poinsettia pot. This decorative wrapping holds water in the container, instead of allowing for drainage. Poinsettias should not be left in standing water.

Let in the light. Choose a window that provides bright light, out of direct sun. A south, east or west facing window is preferred. Avoid drafty windows and keep the plant far enough from the window so that it does not touch a cold windowpane. Also, warm, dry air will dehydrate the poinsettia's roots too fast, so keep plants away from heat registers.

Examine soil daily. A common mistake is to keep the soil too wet, which allows the perfect opportunity for fungi to start to rot the roots. Let the soil dry out between watering. When a poinsettia's leaves start to droop, it is too dry.

Water, please. Conditions with high light and low humidity require more frequent watering. When the soil surface is dry to the touch, place the plant in the sink and let the water gently fill to the top until it runs freely out the drainage hole in the container. Drain well, so that the plant is not in standing water.



# REMINDER: Holiday Centerpiece Workshop

**SOLD OUT CLASSES!!!!**

If you signed up and paid for a class, please don't forget to come on the day you signed up for. Looking forward to a fun and festive class.

Classes will be held in the PROJECT ROOM  
(Building in the back)

December 18th at 10am

December 20th at 10am

ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED

Boyle County Extension Office  
99 Corporate Drive, Danville KY 40422

859-236-4484

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## Winter Cover Crop can improve garden soil

To improve soil health, consider planting a cover crop in your garden. These plants, such as annual ryegrass, hairy vetch, red clover, and winter rye, prevent erosion, suppress weeds, and enrich the soil with nutrients. By planting a cover crop, you can help reduce carbon emissions and create a healthier ecosystem for your garden.



Source: Rick Durham, UK Extension professor  
An Equal Opportunity Organization.

## BECOME A



Are you ready to make a real impact right in your own backyard? The Green Neighbor program invites homeowners in Central Kentucky to embrace environmentally-friendly practices that contribute to a healthier planet.

### TODAY!



Scan the QR code above or go to <https://bggreenresource.org/green-neighbor/> to apply!



**BLUEGRASS  
GREENSOURCE**

Outreach

For more information contact Rachel Skinner at [rachel.skinner@bggreenresource.org](mailto:rachel.skinner@bggreenresource.org)

**BE SURE TO FOLLOW THE OFFICE AND HORTICULTURE FACEBOOK PAGE TO STAY UP TO DATE ON HOLIDAY CLOSURES, WEATHER-DELAYED OPENINGS AND EVENTS!**

**BOYLE COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE**  
**&**  
**BOYLE COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION-HORTICULTURE**

As winter arrives in Kentucky, trees lose their leaves, exposing unique bark patterns that protect against environmental stressors. Bark regulates tree temperatures and consists of various tissue layers, with characteristics like smoothness or roughness that can help identify tree species.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Some deciduous trees hold on to their leaves in the winter, a trait known as marcescence or the retention of dead plant parts.



**Winter's  
Bare Beauty:  
A Closer  
Look at Tree  
Bark**



APPLY FOR A  
**BEGINNING FARMER SCHOLARSHIP!**

Free registration for those farming for less than 10 years



BOWLING GREEN, KY | JANUARY 11-13



**REGISTER TODAY**



<https://kentuckyhorticulturecouncil.ticketspice.com/2026kyfattendee>



The 15th Annual OAK Conference is January 30-31, at Kentucky State University's Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm, 1525 Mills Ln, Frankfort, KY 40601.

OAK's conference program features two days of inspiration from local and regional speakers, useful trade show resources and abundant networking opportunities to empower and support farmers, agriculture professionals and food system advocates. The sessions, workshops, panels, demonstrations and keynotes focus on organic agriculture production systems, management strategies and tools to use on the farm and the many interwoven threads of community, conservation, research and collective action at work in Kentucky. We invite you to join in the conversation!