

Village Garden Center

& Landscape Service

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Concolor Fir (White Fir)

The white, or concolor fir, a Western American native species ranging from Colorado to Southern California, New Mexico and into Mexico, can grow to 100 feet in the wild, apparently, but in a garden setting you are more likely to see it get to 30 or maybe



50 feet in time, and half as wide. Its long needles, which are particularly silvery-blue in the cultivar 'Candicans,' curve outward and up. Unlike the Colorado blue spruce, *Picea pungens glauca*, the fir's foliage is soft to the touch, far less stiff. It is also far less trouble-prone than the Colorado blue

spruce, which if you've encountered with a case of spruce gall or spider mites or the canker that can affect lower

branches, you will know how disfiguring these issues can

be. Stated simply: If you want

a big blue pyramidal conifer

in Zones 4-7 this fir is it (just

not in heavy clay, which it

apparently will not tolerate).

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Merry
Christmas

How to care for a living Christmas tree

1 Slowly bring the living tree from the outside to the inside of your house starting with the garage or enclosed porch, and ending up inside the house. To expose a dormant tree from the cold outdoors, to the warm indoors immediately will start to grow. This growth is what you want to avoid. Make sure to check the tree for bugs or insect eggs, while the tree gets used to the warmth.

2 Buy a spray with an anti-desiccant or anti-wilt product so that during the introduction to the house phase, the needles will not drop. It will also help keep the moisture in the tree, that might be lost once it is brought inside.



3 Place the tree and the root ball in a large galvanized tub.



4 Locate the tree indoors in as cool a location as possible. Keep it away from heating vents, fireplaces and other heat sources. Use limited numbers of miniature tree lights. Provide as much natural light as possible.



5 Place the root ball or container in a water holding tub. Fill the bottom two inches of the tub with gravel and place the ball or container on the gravel. This will keep the tree from sitting in water. Keep the root ball constantly and evenly moist, but not flooded. A handy technique for watering trees while indoors is to place crushed ice over the top of the root ball.



6 Learn that a piece of pipe inserted vertically at the side of the tub provides an easy way to check water level in the tub. If there is water at the bottom of the pipe, you do not need to water the tree. You can check the water level by inserting a "dip stick" into the pipe.



7 Finished.



From the Garden of Eva

Festive New York-Style Cheesecake Recipe

TOTAL TIME: Prep: 20 min. Bake: 45 min.

+ chilling

MAKES: 12 servings

Ingredients

1-1/4 cups crushed chocolate wafers

1/2 cup chopped walnuts

1/3 cup sugar

1/2 cup butter, melted

FILLING:

2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened

3 tablespoons sour cream

1/3 cup sugar

2 large eggs, lightly beaten

1/2 cup evaporated milk

1 teaspoon lemon juice

TOPPING:

2 cups (16 ounces) sour cream

5 tablespoons sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Assorted candies and chocolate syrup

Nutritional Facts

1 slice (calculated without candies and chocolate syrup):

458 calories, 34g fat (20g saturated fat), 130mg cholesterol, 270mg sodium, 29g carbohydrate

(23g sugars, 1g fiber), 8g protein.



Directions

1. In a small bowl, combine the wafer crumbs, walnuts and sugar; stir in butter.
Press onto the bottom and halfway up the sides of an ungreased 10-in. springform pan.
Freeze for 15 minutes.
2. In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese, sour cream and sugar until smooth.
Add eggs; beat on low speed just until combined. Combine milk and lemon juice;
add to cream cheese mixture just until blended.
3. Pour into crust. Place pan on a baking sheet.
Bake at 350° for 35-40 minutes or until center is almost set.
4. Combine the sour cream, sugar and vanilla; carefully spread over cheesecake.
Bake 10 minutes longer. Cool on a wire rack for 10 minutes.
Carefully run a knife around edge of pan to loosen; cool 1 hour longer.
Refrigerate overnight. Garnish with candies and drizzle with chocolate syrup.
Refrigerate leftovers. Yield: 12 servings.



How to Care for Poinsettias

Poinsettias bring a splash of festive red and green to a table or windowsill at the holidays.

With proper care, you can enjoy these beautiful plants for weeks.

Find the Ideal Spot

To keep them looking good, give poinsettias a sunny, south-facing windowsill or bright filtered light.

Don't press them close to a cold windowpane however, because this can damage the leaves.

Keep them at about 68 degrees F during the day, and cooler at night, to prolong the display.



Watering and Feeding

Poinsettias should be watered regularly and kept evenly moist. Never let plants sit in water; always empty their saucers or planters shortly after watering.

Getting Poinsettias to Bloom Again

With proper poinsettia care after Christmas, you can get a plant to perform again. Water it until mid-spring, then let it dry out and allow the stems to shrivel. Keep it cool. At the end of spring, cut all growth to a couple of inches above the soil and repot it in new soil. Water well and keep it warm, feeding it with houseplant fertilizer when new growth appears. A month later, move the plant outside to a shady location, pinching out the growing tips in midsummer, before returning it indoors. Give it a sunny spot, watering and feeding regularly; then from mid-autumn, keep the plant in total darkness between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. It will then re-flower and produce colorful bracts

Top Tip: Leaf Drop

It's common for a few poinsettia leaves to turn yellow and drop off when you first bring them home.

Don't be alarmed — the plant is just reacting to its new living conditions..



Christmas Jewel Holly

A Holly selected for its dark, polished green foliage and large apple-red berries. Growth habit is naturally dense and upright.

Great specimen for a privacy or noise screen.

No pollinator needed for this showy female plant.

Exposure:

Sun to Partial Shade

Height:

10 ft Spread: 6-8 ft

Characteristics:

Key Features:

Evergreen

Drought Tolerant

Deer Tolerant

Pollenizer

Growth Rate: Moderate Habit: Dense Pyramidal

Foliage Color:

Green

Interest: Year-Round Uses: Screen, Specimen

Homeowner Growing and Maintenance Tips:

For new plantings, dig a hole one and a half times wider than the plant's container; place plant in hole, keeping the top of the root ball ground level; and back fill with dirt. Water thoroughly and then mulch around the base to conserve moisture and reduce weeds. New plantings require more frequent watering than established plants. Wind, temperature and soil are factors to consider in watering. Feed plants in early spring and again in early fall with an all-purpose fertilizer, following label instructions.





We can help you decorate for Christmas!

**Visit our Christmas shop located in the Big Red Barn
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Hand made Christmas Cards

Real & artificial trees

All sizes & colors

Beautiful Wreaths & Garland

Both real or not

Elves, Elves, Elves

Ornaments in every color & style

Lanterns all sizes



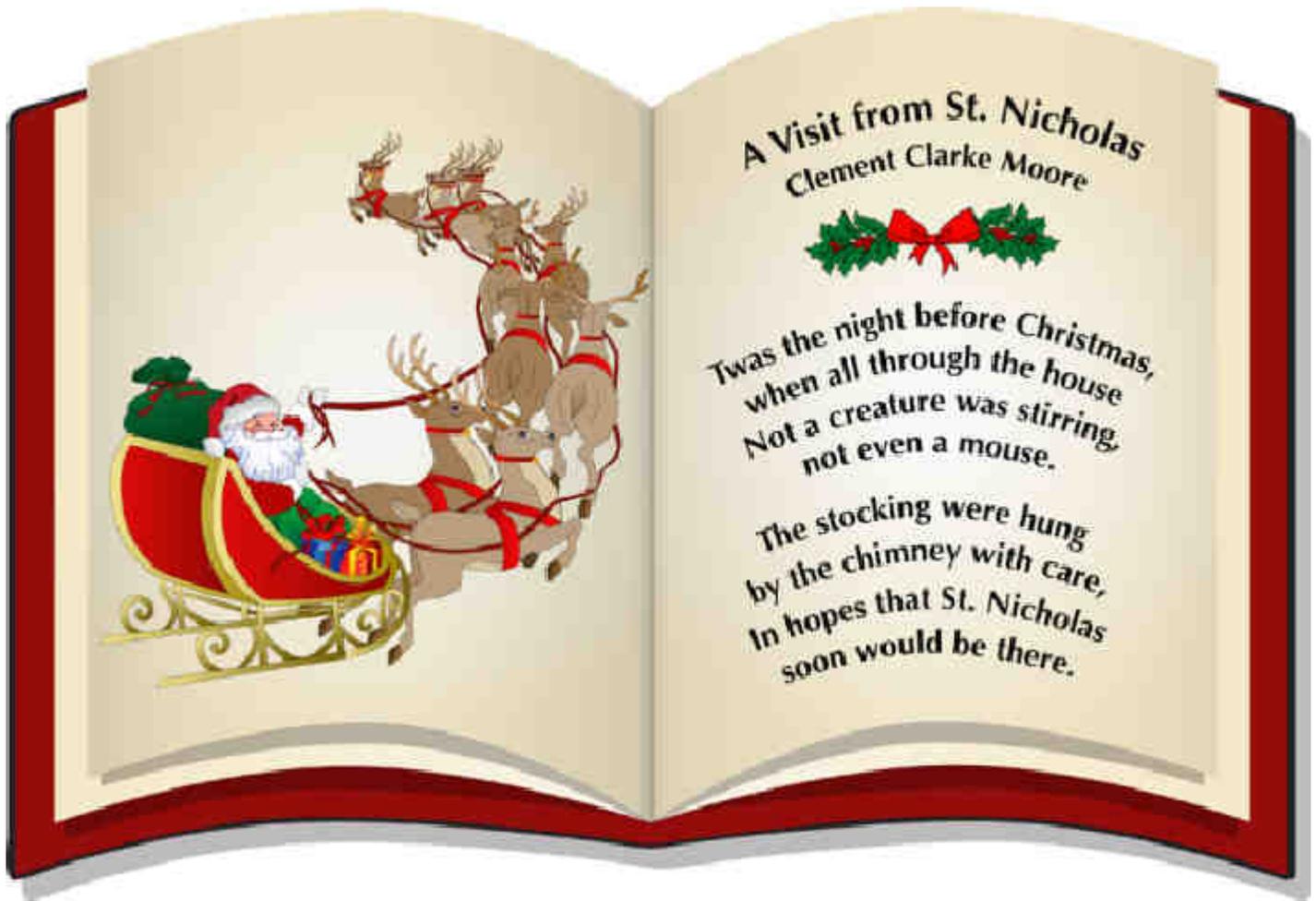
Hand made Bows!



Minature tabletop Christmas tree decorating

Pick a theme or color and run with it!





*Merry Christmas to all our family and friends
Enjoy your time together .*

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