

Trees

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Q: Do I need to cut 2 inches off the tree base for it to take up water in the stand?

A: No, cutting 1/2-inch slice off the base is plenty for water uptake. However, clearing the ceiling is another question.

Q: Do I need to cut the base of the trees at an angle, drill holes in the base or install plastic tubes so the tree can

get water?

A: No. Water begins the path up the tree via microscopic tubes called "tracheids" in the wood just beneath the bark. The wood near the outer part of the stem conducts water efficiently and becomes less so toward the center. Simply cut the stem perpendicular to the trunk to maximize the area exposed to the water. Complicated cuts, drill holes or I.V. tubes do not help.

Q: Do I need to add something to the water to help the tree stay fresh-er?

A: People have added all kinds of

things to water, including vodka, 7-Up, bleach, aspirin and sugar. However, clean, cold water is all that is needed. Some additives actually can cause the tree to shed needles or dry out more rapidly.

Q: Will any tree stand work, as long as it holds the tree up?

A: No. A stand should hold a quart of water for every inch of stem diameter. A tree with a 6-inch stem diameter will need a stand that holds a gallon and a half of water. Very few stands have the capacity for today's large trees. Consider purchasing a new stand, or a smaller tree, if

the water capacity is not adequate.

Q: If my decorated tree runs out of water, do I need to take it down and re-cut the base?

A: No. If you refill the water stand within 24 hours of going dry, most trees (Douglas fir, noble, Nordmann, Fraser) should re-hydrate just fine. For grand fir, 12 hours may be the limit. Of course, it's best if the tree does not run out of water, so check it every day, especially the first few days. Your pets may be helping themselves to the water, too. If your tree becomes dry and brittle, it may be time to take it down.

Farms

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Farms

Tucker Tree Farm

To get there: O'Brian Road S, Salem; take Liberty Road S, right on Jory Hill Road, right on O'Brian and go to end of street
Open: 11 a.m. to dark weekdays and 8 a.m. to dark weekends, Nov. 25 through Dec. 18
Trees: Noble and grand firs, ranging from \$10 to \$65, with large nobles up to 15 feet
Extras: Hayride, hot apple cider, cookies and candy canes, apple sling, wreaths and flocked trees for sale, beer and growler fills offered by Westside Taphouse from noon to 5 p.m. weekends, plus cutting, loading assistance and baling
Contact: 503-931-4115

Vitae Springs Christmas Tree Farm

To get there: 6057 Vitae Springs Lane South, Salem; go west on Kuebler Boulevard, take a left onto Skyline Road S for 1 mile, take a right on Vitae Springs Road for 1 mile and turn left on Vitae Springs Lane.
Open: 10 a.m. to dusk Saturdays and Sundays, Nov. 26-Dec. 18
Trees: Douglas-firs (4 feet to 16 feet), \$20
Extras: Free coffee, cider, cocoa, cookies; hauling, cutting and loading assistance and hand saws
Contact: 503-851-5812 or vitaespringsctf.com

West Salem

Janzen's U-Cut trees

To get there: 11460 SE Eola Hills Road, take Wallace Road north for 10 miles, left on LaFayette Highway, go 2 miles, turn left on Eola Hills Road, 1 mile to stop sign and farm is on the left
Open: 9 a.m. to dark daily Nov. 25 through Dec. 24
Trees: Nobles, Nordmanns, Douglas, grands, with Douglas and grands starting at \$15 and Nordmanns and nobles starting at \$20
Weekend extras: Saws, cutting and baling assistance, holly, coffee, candy canes and paved parking, plus wreaths, garland, fresh trees, mistletoe and sleigh for pictures
Contact: 503-835-3008 or Janzenfarms.com

Eola Christmas Trees

To get there: 4705 Eola Drive NW, Salem; take Highway 22 to Doaks Ferry Road NW, left at Eola Drive, follow signs
Open: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 25, then Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 24
Trees: Douglas, grand and noble firs and blue spruce; \$20 any Douglas, \$5 per foot for noble and blue spruce and \$4 per foot for grands
Extras: Free cider, hot chocolate, candy canes, saws and cutting and loading assistance, plus noble wreaths for sale for \$20
Contact: 503-559-7000 or 503-580-4716



Bob Palmer stands in his showroom of flocked Christmas trees at Palmer's Tree Farm in 2012. The tree farm will again sell flocked trees.

Aumsville

Hampton Farms

To get there: 11114 James Way Drive, Aumsville; from Salem, take Highway 22 to Exit 12 at Santiam Golf Club Road, turn left on Golf Club Road and cross Highway 22. Go up the hill to Steinkamp, turn left and continue to Sherman Road. Turn right on Sherman Road to James Way. Turn left on James Way to the first visible house on the left.
Open: 10 a.m. to dark daily Nov. 25 through Dec. 19
Trees: Noble firs, \$14.98 to \$45 for 5 to 12 feet
Extras: Cutting and loading assistance available
Contact: 503-749-2113

Dallas

Bigfoot Christmas Trees

To get there: Cherry Knoll Road; take 99 West exit off of Highway 22, then go south on 99W for three miles, then take a right Clow Corner Road and go three miles and take a left on Cherry Knoll. Farm is a quarter mile up the road.
Open: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, Nov. 25 through Dec. 21
Trees: Noble and Nordmann (\$45), Douglas (\$25) and grand (\$35) firs, with prices going up for trees over 8 1/2 feet; you cut or pre-cut
Extras: Wreaths, snow flocking and fresh honey for sale and free weekend hot drinks, cookies and candy canes, and free shaking, hauling and baling

Contact: 503-881-8188 503-580-8668

Westwinds Farm

To get there: 700 N Fir Villa Road, Dallas; go west on Highway 22 toward coast for 3 miles, turn left on Highway 223 (King Valley Highway), then turn left on North Fir Villa Road
Open: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays and by appointment Mondays-Thursdays, Nov. 25 through Dec. 18
Trees: Noble, Nordmann, grand and Douglas-firs, starting at \$20
Extras: Warm fire, treats, cutting and hauling by employees only and tree shaking, plus hand-crafted wreaths for sale
Contact: 503-910-9232

Rickreall

Christmas Knoll Tree Farm

To get there: 8150 Crowley Road, Rickreall; from Salem, go west on Highway 22 to Exit 16 and go north on Highway 99 toward McMinnville 3 miles to Crowley Road, turning right. Farm is a little more than a mile on Crowley.
Open: Noon to dusk Mondays-Fridays and 10 a.m. to dusk Saturdays-Sundays, Nov. 25 through Dec. 18
Trees: Grands and Nordmann firs, \$30, and Douglas, \$20
Extras: Tractor-pulled train ride to the field and back, plus baling assistance on weekends; daily extras include free hot chocolate, cider and cookies, and decorated shop and

restrooms. Cash or check only.

Contact: 503-623-9622

Gervais

Bauman's Farm and Garden

To get there: Take I-5 north of Salem to the Brooks/Gervais exit 263. Turn right off the freeway, go about 1 mile to the stoplight. Turn left at the stoplight onto 99E. Go 6 1/2 miles to Howell Prairie Road. Turn Right, go 1/2 mile to our farm. (There are signs on 99E when to/ turn).
Open: 9 to 5 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays through Dec. 24
Trees: Douglas, Nobles, Nordmann, corkbark and Grand firs and others; 4 to 12 feet; \$5 per foot for Douglas; \$8 per foot for others
Extras: Free shake and bale; hot apple cider and cider doughnuts; Saturdays include free hayrides, marshmallow roasting, firepits and visits with Santa. Also, custom wreaths and gift packs, holiday produce and baked goods.
Contact: 503-792-3524

Silverton

Drakes Crossing Christmas Trees

To get there: 1700 Silver Falls Drive NE; take Highway 214 southeast out of Silverton toward Silver Falls and look for signs on left after about 7 miles.
Open: 9 a.m. to dusk Nov. 25-27 and Dec. 3-4
Trees: Noble firs for \$35
Extras: Wreaths, garland, saws, cutting assistance, hot beverages and tree baling
Contact: 503-873-4932, drakescrossingnursery.com

Hidden Lake Tree Farm

To get there: 1469 Silver Falls Drive NE; take Highway 214 southeast out of Silverton toward Silver Falls and look for signs about eight miles outside of Silverton
Open: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, Nov. 25 through Dec. 24
Trees: Noble and grand firs starting at \$20, from tabletop to 15 feet
Extras: Hot beverages, shaking, baling services and saws
Contact: 503-873-1190

Stayton

Porter Family Noble Tree Farm

To get there: 40614 Stayton-Scio Road, Stayton; take second Stayton/Sublimity exit off Highway 22 east, turn right and go straight through Stayton. Look for signs.
Open: 9 to 4 p.m. Nov. 25 and Saturdays-Sundays, through Dec. 24
Trees: Noble firs \$4 per foot (you choose, we cut)
Extras: Free cookies, coffee and hot chocolate and holly; wreaths and centerpieces for sale, plus shaking, cutting, hauling and loading
Contact: 503-769-7446

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