

# gardening

## EVERGREEN MEMORIES

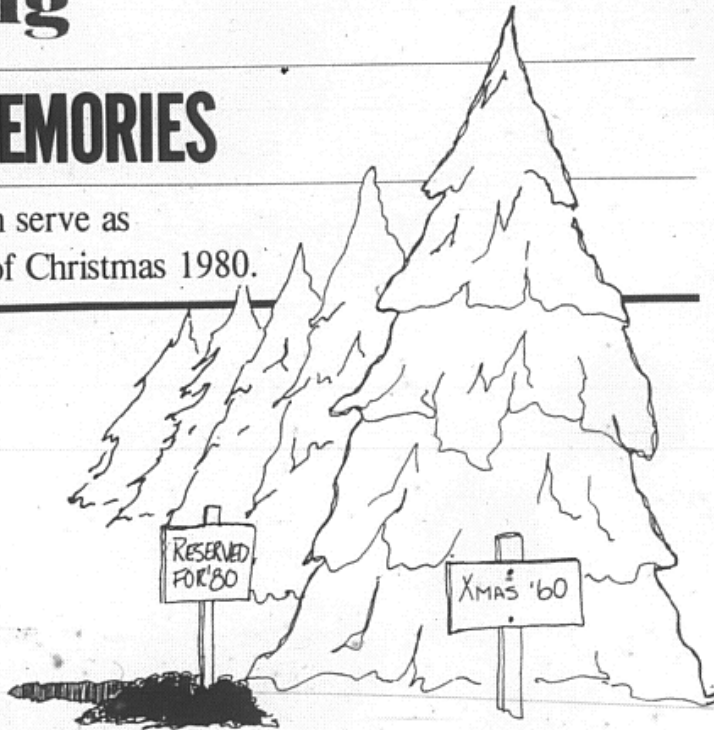
A live Christmas tree can serve as an everlasting reminder of Christmas 1980.

By Pat Leuchtman

Although we have had some very severe weather recently, the ground is still not frozen solid and that means it is not too late to prepare a planting hole for a live Christmas tree. Choosing a live tree this year will give you an everlasting remembrance of this year's festivities. It can also be a valuable addition to your landscaping, or very practically, it can be placed to act as a windbreak.

However, using a live Christmas tree does require some advance planning. Most importantly you must decide where to plant it after it has served its purpose indoors. Perhaps you are planning a line of evergreens to mark off the boundaries of your lot, or to screen you from the street to form noise barriers. Perhaps as part of your energy saving plan you have begun planting a windbreak that will help protect your house from fierce winds during the winter. (Up here in Heath, wind and windbreaks are much on my mind).

When you have decided where to place your Christmas tree, dig a



the tree.

You will have your choice of different fir, spruce or balsam trees, but when you go shopping pick a tree that looks healthy and has springy needles. If the needles are yellowing or already falling off, keep looking. Also, remember that a small tree will suffer less from the shock of transplanting than a large one.

crowd the roots and keep the root ball moist, but do not let it get soggy. You may want to cover the wrapped root ball with damp moss. Don't keep the tree indoors any longer than a week or 10 days or it will begin to die.

To plant the tree, take the bags of leaves out of the prepared hole and set in the tree. Untie and unwrap the burlap wrapping, but you may leave it in the hole. It will eventually rot and the roots will grow right through it.

Shovel in the unfrozen dirt and when the hole is almost filled give the tree a good watering. Finish filling the hole and then add a deep mulch of leaves. This will keep the soil and roots from freezing.

Evergreens respire and lose moisture from their needles even in winter, so if we should have another snowless January like last year, keep your newly planted tree well watered. This will help it get off to a good healthy start.

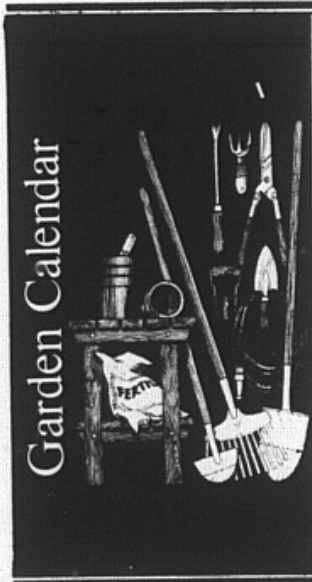
The following information is provided by the Franklin County Extension Service:

### Now is the time to:

- keep cut Christmas trees in water.
- wrap plants well in layers of paper when transporting in car.

### Note:

- Outside decorations must be weatherproof.
- An amaryllis bulb is always a good gift.
- Fresh flowers are nice this time of year.



good size hole that will accommodate your tree's root ball with room to spare all around. The soil that you remove from the hole should be stored where it will not freeze, possibly in bags in your cellar or garage. Then fill the hole with bags of leaves. This will keep the hole from freezing and later you can use the leaves as a protective mulch around

Keep your live tree in a protected spot before bringing it into the house to decorate and take precautions that the root ball does not dry out or freeze.

The heat of a house can damage a live tree so put it in a cool spot if possible. Definitely keep it away from woodstoves and fireplaces. Put the tree in a planter that will not

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