

DECEMBER GARDENING TIPS

My only gardening tip for this month concerns leaf removal, which is critical at this point for both your lawn and gardens.

Moving indoors and in keeping with the holiday season:

- If you have a live Christmas tree, set it against the garage or the warmest side of the house for a day before bringing it inside. This will acclimate it to the warmer temperature of the house. Don't forget to water it each day to keep it fresh.
- A great way to water a living tree is to place ice cubes on the root ball and let them melt.
- If you decorate with live greenery, try to keep them watered also.
- Do you decorate with pinecones? Place them on a cookie sheet and "bake" them at 200 for a few hours to kill any unwelcomed critters that may be living in them.
- Poinsettias - they will turn yellow if you water them with the foil sleeves still on (or in a decorative pot/planter). Take them to the sink and water them until the water runs out the bottom. Let them drain for a while before replacing the foil or pot.