



For the week of
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By Jennifer Kiko,
(330) 202-3503

Hey Editor!

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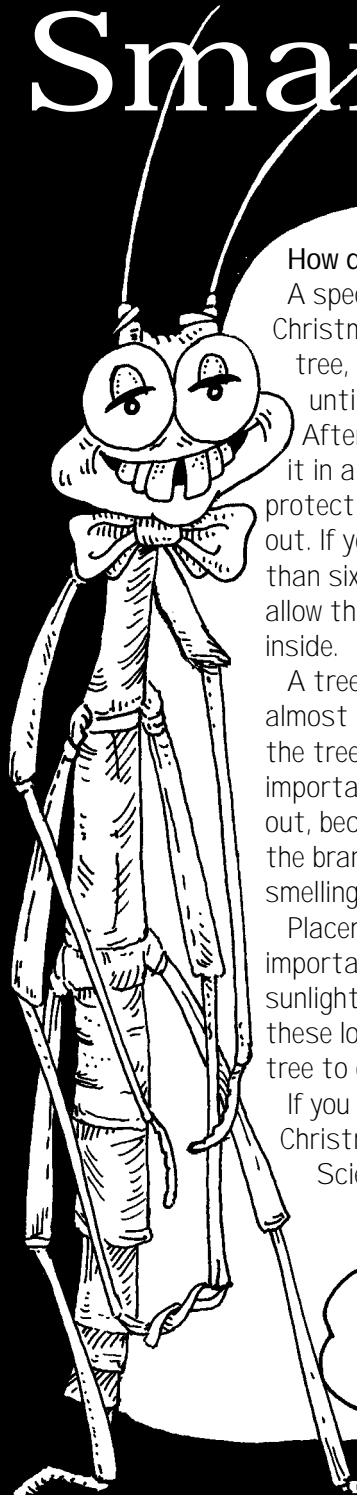
2021 Coffey Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1044
(614) 292-2011

203 Research Services Building
Wooster, Ohio 44691-4096
(330) 263-3775

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Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK



How do I take care of a live Christmas tree?

A special holiday activity is decorating the Christmas tree with your family. If you have a live tree, it's important to take care of it so it lasts until after Christmas.

After you've cut the tree, it's a good idea to wrap it in a tarp for the ride to your house. This will protect your tree from the cold winds that will dry it out. If you have to leave the tree outside for more than six hours, be sure to recut the end. This will allow the tree to absorb water once you have it inside.

A tree with a two-inch diameter trunk will use almost two quarts of water per day—the larger the tree trunk the more water it needs! Water is important because it keeps the needles from drying out, becoming brittle and dropping off. It also keeps the branches from drooping and helps keep the tree smelling fragrant.

Placement of your tree inside the house is very important. Make sure the tree is far from direct sunlight, heating ducts and fireplaces. Not only are these locations fire hazards, they also cause the tree to dry out more quickly.

If you and your family follow these tips your Christmas tree should last for several weeks!

Scientifically yours,

Twig



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