

## CELEBRATE THE WINTER WITH COLOR



### HEADLINES

- WINTER COLOR INDOORS
- WINTER CONTAINER GARDENING
- CHRISTMAS TREE TIPS
- TREES WE RECOMEND

**Dress up your home in the winter with a surprising array of blooming plants.**

As you start thinking of trimming your home for the holidays make room for some potted plants that will bring an array of color and blossoms that linger for weeks.

Here are some tips to select the right plants and keep them healthy.

- Purchase a healthy plant that is full of buds and new growth.
- Add some good soil, we recommend Miracle Grow soil.
- Put the plant in the right spot in your home read the tag for right lighting.
- Water in the mornings
- Only fertilize when you water

We recommend the following plants for indoor winter color:

1. Poinsettias - A great variety of colors are now available for this classic holiday plant. Don't fertilize while they are in bloom.
2. Cyclamen - The blooms resemble a cloud of butterflies. with reds, whites and pinks. Bright indirect light is best and cool temps will keep the blooms lasting for weeks.
3. African Violets - These plants offer nonstop floral blooms in full rainbow hues. With indirect light and a monthly feeding should produce non-stop flowers all winter long.
4. Christmas cactus - These are the 'friendly' cactus variety, no thorns! They thrive on sandy soil with little water. If timed right the flowers are spectacular at Christmas.
4. Amaryllis - are great flowering plants and the stores are full of a variety of colorful blooms, you should begin forcing your blooms 10 weeks prior to when you want them to bloom.
5. Miniature Roses - offer the same wonderful qualities as their big brothers, great color, aroma and flowers. Check the soil frequently and water when dry to the touch.



### **Potted Pleasures**

Your outdoor pots and containers need not be bare this winter. Fill your outdoor containers to overflowing with colorful plants and berries to boast winter color and attract winter birds. Our region is perfect for winter pansies, ornamental kale, dianthus, snapdragons and sweet alyssum thrive in our winter cooler air. Ivy also proves as a sturdy green to add flow out of your containers. You can add height to your containers by adding a miniature trellis or a dwarf Alberta spruce. Bring your holiday decorating outdoors. Other fun things to do to decorate your outdoor containers are add some berried twigs, sunflowers, evergreen boughs, add some varieties of bird seed and you will have a beautiful container that will attract nature to your patio. Have fun with your outdoor containers and let your creative juices flow, just don't let them sit empty all winter.

### **Christmas tree tips and advice**

For most apartments we recommend a 4-6ft tree unless

you have vaulted ceilings.

#### Tree Tips:

- Scrub the stand with soap, and rinse with a diluted bleach solution.
- Measure the depth of the base stand and then measure from the cut of your tree and remove all branches in the way.
- Always cut 2 inches off the base after you get the tree home, this allows fresh water to get to all branches of the tree.
- After cutting put the tree in warm water, use a tree preservative, it helps keep the needles on and prevents browning. It could add 50% more life to your tree.
- Water your tree daily it should soak up a pint or more a day.
- Finally, use a new tree stand that easily allows

you to move the tree to that perfect spot without getting upset.

### **Wreaths, Garland and Roping**

We recommend the following to keep your greens fresh throughout the season.

- Mist fresh greenery when you get it and let it dry before you hang it.
- Keep away from sunny windows and heat registers to prevent them from early drying
- Mist daily unless misting will damage surface areas or ornaments.

#### **Tree's we recommend for the PNW.**

- Fraser fir - fragrant tree with green needles on top and silvery beneath, slender profile.
- Grand fir - Densely round shape with green needles on top and white striped underneath.
- Noble fir - Branches are great for showing off your ornaments. Green needles upwardly curved.
- Douglas fir - Citrusy sweet aroma. Blue/Green needles.
- 

We at TerraFirma are happy to be your landscape professionals and we wish you a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

Sincerely

Your TerraFirma Team

