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Nebraska Forest Service: Your Christmas Tree

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Lineberry, Sandy and Vogltance, Bob, "Nebraska Forest Service: Your Christmas Tree" (2007).
Publications, etc. -- Nebraska Forest Service. 79.
https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebforestpubs/79

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Be creative, but be fire safe. Use only flame-retardant or non-combustible decorations.
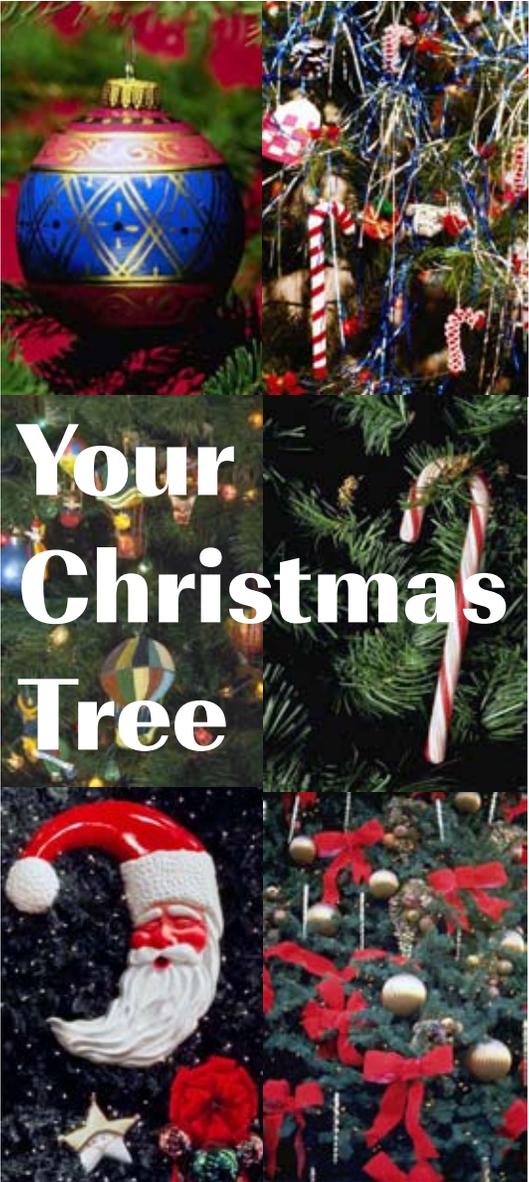
Keep natural evergreen wreaths, garlands and other seasonal greenery away from all sources of heat, such as radiators, air vents, TV sets, fireplaces, space heaters, wood stoves or candles.

If candles are part of your holiday decor, never leave them unattended while burning. Remember to extinguish all candles before going to bed or leaving.

If using holiday masks, whiskers or other costumes, be sure they are flame retardant.

For more information, contact:

Nebraska Forest Service

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Your Christmas Tree

UNIVERSITY OF Nebraska

Trees are the centerpiece for many Christmas celebrations, but proper care is necessary to ensure the safety of your tree and other seasonal decorations. Keep the holidays merry by following some simple fire prevention tips to protect your family and home!

NATURAL TREES

Buy a freshly cut tree.

Do not purchase trees with brittle or shedding needles.

When you get your tree home, make a clean cut across the base of the trunk. This allows the tree to take up water, keeping it fresher and safer.

Set your tree in a sturdy, non-tip tree stand that can hold at least one gallon of water.

Check the water level in your tree stand daily and refill as necessary. Trees can take up a gallon, or more, of water each day.

Once your tree stops absorbing water, it will dry out and become a fire hazard. If this happens, discard the tree.

Consider adding guy lines to support a big tree or trees displayed outdoors.

Keep your tree away from heat sources, such as radiators, air vents, TV sets, fireplaces, space heaters, wood stoves or candles.

Never block exits with your tree or other decorations.

Don't rely on self-applied aerosol sprays or other chemical treatments to protect your tree from fire.

ARTIFICIAL TREES

Keep all artificial trees away from heat sources, such as radiators, air vents, TV sets, fireplaces, space heaters, wood stoves or candles.

Be sure artificial trees are fire retardant.

Don't hang electric lights on a metallic tree. Metal is a conductor of electricity, so this could result in an electric shock.

Trees with a built-in electrical system should carry the label of the testing agency.

LIGHTING

Thoroughly inspect lights before use. Look for frayed wires, worn insulation, loose bulb sockets or broken plugs. Replace damaged lights.

Buy lighting sets approved by Universal Laboratories (UL). Plug into circuits that are no larger than 15-amps.

Use extension cords sparingly.

Do not place cords in high-traffic areas, such as across doorways or under rugs.

When leaving or going to bed, unplug your holiday lights.

Only use lights and decorations approved for outdoor use when creating exterior displays.

The Nebraska Forest Service: Improving peoples' lives by protecting, utilizing and enhancing Nebraska's tree and forest resources.