

# BUCHANAN'S

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## NATIVE PLANTS

### Living Christmas Trees

*The great thing about living Christmas trees? They stay alive and growing for years to come. But how do you keep them alive and how much will they grow? Here's info that will help you decide which tree is for you and how to provide for them.*

*Start by deciding on the tree's post-holiday fate: in the ground or in a pot? Indoors or out? If you are planting it in the ground, be sure to find a spot with good drainage and room for its eventual growth. If you plan to keep the tree in a container, move it to a larger pot where its roots will have room to grow.*

**Aleppo Pine** -- Choose the Aleppo Pine for a tree that can do well in drought conditions or poor soils. It will do best as an outdoor tree. Height: 30-60' tall. From the Mediterranean area so Aleppo needs very good drainage.

**Berckman's Gold Arborvitae** – This yellow-green to gold variety will do well in a container or in the ground. It likes sun to part-sun, well-drained soil and normal to moist soil. In the ground, it will reach about 5 ft. tall and 3 ft. wide; smaller in a container.

**Carolina Sapphire Cypress** – It would be hard to keep the Carolina Sapphire in a container; it grows 3-5 ft. per year and will reach a height around 40 feet. If you have room for it, this tree makes a beautiful addition to any landscape with its blue-gray foliage that contrasts well with surrounding plants.

**Italian Stone Pine** -- Although this tree can grow up to 60 feet tall, it still makes a great container tree because it is a very slow grower. It needs sun, good drainage and an alkaline soil. In Europe, pine nuts (known as pignoli) are harvested from this pine tree species and used to make cookies, pesto and other delights.

**Lemon Cypress** -- The lemony fragrance and golden yellow-to-chartreuse coloring of this dwarf evergreen make it an outstanding choice for containers. It will grow to 6-8 ft. in 10 years with a width of just 1-2 ft. Indoors, Lemon Cypress should be close to a window where it will receive at least 6-8 hours a day of direct sun. Lemon Cypress requires very well-draining soil and little watering.

**Leyland Cypress and Monterey Pine** – These are other fast-growing large tree that will be happiest when planted in the ground. Leyland Cypress can get to 50 ft. and Monterey Pine can get up to 100 ft.!

**Norfolk Island Pine** – This tropical native of the South Pacific should be grown in a container indoors. Because it can get big over time, many Houstonians move their Norfolk Pines outdoors. There, they will do well in part shade until we get a hard freeze.

**Rosemary** -- Not only can Rosemary be cut into a perfect Christmas tree shape, it smells wonderful. Like most living Christmas trees, it doesn't like being indoors for more than a week or two and it appreciates well-drained soil. So plant it in a pot or in the ground in full or part sun.