



FBMG Help Desk
Question of the Week

What to do with the real tree after Christmas?

There are multiple options...

Sustainable Christmas Tree Disposal

Preparation for repurposing of your Christmas tree

You and your family enjoyed the warmth and beauty of a live Christmas tree this year. Now that the holiday has passed, there are options for disposal of your tree.

Depending on your location there are multiple possibilities.

Proper tree preparation is the first step.

Make sure your tree is free of all:

- *lights*
- *ornaments, ribbons & wire*
- *tinsel, garlands & strings*
- *removed from the tree stand*
- *not in a plastic bag*



******** Sustainable Disposal of Real Christmas trees. ********

Repurposing of your Christmas Tree

Mulch or Wildlife Habitat

Both options save valuable landfill space and improve the environment

Grinding Of The Greens

- *Some areas and service providers provide the mulch to residents at no cost or a reduced cost.*
- *Provides mulch that improves your landscape.*
- *Mulch also makes a great addition to your compost pile.*
- *Prior to grinding, trim off some of the smaller tree branches. They provide great cover for your winter perennials.*



Improving Wildlife Habitat

- *Some bodies of water such as lakes and ponds can be a great place to sink the tree as they;*
 - *create a fish habitat*
 - *become a food source aquatic life*
 - *increase the underwater ecosystem*
- *Placing the tree in your yard or wooded area to help provide added cover and habitat for winter birds, squirrels and other small animals.*
- *If placing in your yard, provide safe distance away from your home or other structures to avoid potential fire hazard.*



Planting Your Tree

The reward can be worth the effort.



If you purchased a live tree with a root ball, make sure you have followed the guidelines for tree preparation and that the tree is properly acclimated to the outside and properly watered.

Steps to consider for greater success:

- *For proper placement check the zone, space, light and water requirements for your tree.*
- *Properly harden your tree by slowly exposing it to the outdoor elements.*
- *For detailed instructions on how to dig and plant trees follow the earthkind link below.*



<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/landscape/planting-a-tree/>

**** If your tree is flocked it may not survive. ****

Practice repurposing responsibly

Be Informed.

Contact your local officials, city, town, county municipality, recycling center, waste management companies, MUD, etc.

Recycling trees is recommended;

- over burning them to help prevent wildfire danger
- to reduce waste in the landfill
- to give it a second purpose

Follow the Rules!!!

- *Not every body of water is eligible to have trees sunk into them, such as retention ponds, and waterways with traffic or moving water. If it is not your pond check your local area for guidance. There may be a drop off or there may not.*

*Do you have questions
about your home
landscape and plants?*

*Contact the Fort Bend
Master Gardener Help Desk*

*Email:
FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu*

*Phone:
281-341-7068*

*The Help Desk is manned
Monday thru Friday,
9am-Noon*

<https://agrifetoday.tamu.edu/2022/12/23/how-to-sustainably-dispose-of-real-christmas-trees/>

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/repurposing-your-old-live-christmas-tree-to-benefit-wildlife/>

*<https://cw39.com/homefortheholidays/where-can-i-drop-off-my-christmas-tree-in-houston/>
[A Guide For Real Christmas Trees - Texas A&M Today \(tamu.edu\)](#)*

*[Planting a Tree - Earth-Kind® Landscaping](#)
[Earth-Kind® Landscaping \(tamu.edu\)](#)*

[Recycle Your Discarded Christmas Tree This Year! | N.C. Cooperative Extension \(ncsu.edu\)](#)

<https://www.fortbendcountytx.gov/government/departments/county-services/recycling-center-hhw>

Happy New Year!