



Quality News

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2015

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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- [Yard 'To-Do' Checklist](#)
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How To Plant A Live Christmas Tree

A step by step guide to winter planting....

If you decide to plant your Christmas tree this year, there is a bit of pre-planning you must do. Keep in mind that a living Christmas tree cannot stay inside for more than a few days. So, if you intend to keep a tree up in the living room throughout the holidays, it can't be the one you are planning to plant in your yard. See our December 'To-Do' list to see how to care for the tree in the meantime.

Before the frigid holiday season comes about and the ground freezes, select a spot in the yard for your Christmas tree. Select a site that has well-drained soil, gets full sun and can accommodate the trees' size as it matures. Next, dig the hole. The hole needs to be the same depth but at least twice the size (preferably five times) wider than the root ball. Place the removed soil in a tarp and place in an unheated, sheltered area, such as the garage, for storage. This is done to ensure that the soil does not freeze. Fill the hole with straw or mulch and make sure to cover it with a board or something solid for safety.

After the holiday – remember that the tree can only stay inside for a few days -

move the tree outside to an unheated location, such as the porch to keep the tree out of wind and sun, in order to allow it to readjust to the cold winter climate. Keep the tree here for about five to seven days. Keep the root ball damp, but not flooded, and keep it covered with straw, peat moss or even an old blanket. Be very careful not to over-water the root ball as it may bring the tree out of dormancy.



When you are ready to plant, remove the burlap or anything around the trunk. Place the tree in the pre-dug hole and add the previously stored soil gradually, firming as it is added and watering when needed. Be sure to plant at the same depth as it was planted at the nursery. Finally, mulch the trunk and surrounding area heavily to prevent the root ball from freezing.

That's it ...a new year and a new tree! Next year when Christmas comes around, put some lights around the tree and maybe even a few ornaments (plastic ornaments to keep the wind from breaking them of course). Need help or advice on Christmas tree planting and/or planning? Give us a call at 836-4000 and we'll be happy to help!

December 'To-Do' List



Store hoses
someplace
warm...in the
shed or
garage

*“Any plants that
you have brought
indoors for the
winter or
houseplants should
be checked for
aphids, mealy bugs
and whiteflies.”*



Most people are not thinking about yard work at this time. However, there are a few things that can still be done.

- **Yard Cleanup** – Most of the leaves have fallen off the trees so it's time to cleanup that yard. Our crews are generally 2-3 man teams. We can do a pretty good cleanup in 2-3 hours and haul away the trash. It's best to take advantage of the drier weather where our blowers and rakes are more effective than when the ground and debris are wet.
- **Tree and Shrub Trimming** – You'll see many people topping their trees at this time, however, we don't recommend taking this drastic step when trimming your trees. We have trained our crew how to properly trim crossing branches, identify deadwood and thin trees out in a way that helps existing branches stronger and healthier. We recommend having this done in the winter months while the plants are dormant. This

reduces the shock and helps the trees and plants thrive once the warmer weather begins.

- **Watering** – Just because it's winter doesn't mean your yard's lawns, trees and shrubs don't need water. If we have low precipitation it is helpful to water everything deeply at least once a month when the ground is not frozen (once every 7-14 days on your lawn if we are not getting moisture). Choose a sunny day and water in the early afternoon. Don't forget to disconnect the hoses and wrap the hose bibs once you are done. If we have moisture in the form of snow or rain, you can postpone this for a short time.
- **Indoor Plants** – Basically any plants that you have brought indoors for the winter or houseplants should be checked for aphids, mealy bugs and whiteflies. These can be controlled by using horticultural oil. The last thing you want is to have a bunch of little bugs flying around your house in the middle of winter.

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twitter



Scan this QR Code to follow QLC on Twitter and get gardening articles, landscaping and environmental news, special discounts and more!

Check Out Our December Plant Specials

This month we are giving 20% off some beautiful trees and shrubs this month. It's time to start planning for next year! Check out our website at www.QualityLawnCareABQ.com or scan the QR code to the right. You can also call our office at 836-4000 to ask about our discounted trees and shrubs this month.



December 'To-Do' List (cont. from page 2)

☐ **Christmas Tree Care and Planting –**

If you are going to purchase a cut tree be sure to cut an inch or two off the bottom of the trunk before placing it in a Christmas tree stand. This will ensure that the tree will continue to absorb the water in the stand and keep it healthy throughout the holiday season. If your tree needles are getting dried out, it can pose a fire hazard so make sure that you keep water in the stand. Be sure to check it daily. If, however, you choose to buy a live Christmas tree that you are planning to place in your yard once Christmas is over, you will want to purchase it just a few days before you plan to plant it. Understand that the trees become acclimated to the warm climate in your home and can be stressed going from a cold climate, to a warm climate and then back again. Carefully follow instructions when planting the tree as well. You might have to dig the hole for the tree ahead of time and keep the excavated dirt in the garage or warmer shed so it doesn't freeze before you can cover the root ball with it. You can also call us to come out and dig the hole for you and plant it if you like. Remember that the rule to follow is to call 811 to have utilities marked before you dig. It's the law.



☐ **Schedule a consultation for next year's services –** Make an appointment to go over your yard services for next year. Knowing ahead of time what to expect can be helpful when budgeting for yard care services next year. We can also help you plan your landscape conversion if you are considering xeriscaping. We get incredibly busy in March with spring services and we find that there are many things that can be done in January and February. So take advantage of the slow wintertime to have us lay rock, design new landscape features or plan conversions. We can also design a maintenance program for you that can be paid in 12 affordable payments that are easy on your budget. We find that by paying for your services over a 12-month period you can avoid paying higher costs during the growing season.

Contact us Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. to schedule services or make a consultation appointment at 836-4000. You can also email us at abqualitylawncare@msn.com or visit our website for pictures, past newsletters and information about our company at www.QualityLawnCareABQ.com.

Did you know...

In Germany, Heiligabend, or Christmas Eve, is said to be a magical time when the pure in heart can hear animals talking.

Commissioned by Sir Henry Cole (1808-1883), British illustrator John Callcott Horsley (1817-1903) invented the first Christmas card in 1843.

Alabama was the first state in the United States to officially recognize Christmas in 1836.

Christmas wasn't declared an official holiday in the United States until June 26, 1870.



December Special



\$20 OFF Any Service

~Totaling \$100 or more~

Must mention coupon for discount. Expires 1/31/2016.

Not valid with any other offers.



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“Give your yard some Q.L.C.”

Inside this issue:

- *December ‘To-Do’*
- *Plant a live Christmas tree*
- *Discounts*

Or Current Resident

Newsletter by Ryan Seabrook
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Visit us on the Web
www.QualityLawnCareABQ.com

Or Scan
this QR
Code...



Happy Holidays to all of our customers and friends! We hope that your holiday is joyful, bright and full of happiness. We would also like to

A letter to our customers

thank you for another wonderful year at Quality Lawn Care...25 years now to be exact. We couldn't have done it without your support! Don't forget to take advantage of our \$20 off coupon inside this newsletter as a gift from us to you.

Thank you all so much for your business and your support!

-Your Q.L.C. Staff

“Give Your Yard Some QLC”

A full service lawn and landscape company

Landscaping

Xeriscaping

Irrigation

Mowing

Trimming /Pruning

Fertilization and weed control

Tree and Shrub spraying

Power raking/Aeration

Seasonal Cleanup

Yearly maintenance contracts

Seeding/Sodding

Pond cleanouts

Water features

Flagstone

Paver patios and walkways

Garden preparation/ Rototilling

Stump removal

Design, consulting & diagnostics



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