



**MOVING DISPLAY** — Warren Bopp of 26338 Hidden Valley, Farmington, is such a railroad buff that he carries the theme into Christmas, too, with this 60-foot-long display. It has four motors, gearbox, timers and switches. The elf (left) climbs the chimney, Santa rocks back and forth, and the

wheels on the engine start and stop as the semaphore gives it different signals. The display has become more elaborate since it was first put up a dozen years ago. It takes two persons a half-day to install.

## Live Christmas Trees Need Special Care

A living Christmas tree can be an extra holiday bonus when it becomes a part of your landscape plans. Extra cost and special care are some of the hazards of a living tree but a growing number find these trees will survive and become specimen trees in their landscape.

Nurserymen are quick to advise you about sizes to order, when to plant and to order in advance. The main factor in survival is immediate planting after 10-12 days indoors. Longer periods indoors causes new growth to develop. Once new growth begins, the trees die when exposed to winter

weather. RATHER SMALL trees are most successful. Four to five-foot trees usually survive, while larger sizes are very heavy to handle and hard to bring through the winter. Advance orders is one way to insure size and availability when you are ready to decorate.

A common method of maintaining moisture indoors is placing the tree in a tub with moist sawdust. Another way is wetting the burlap, then wrapping the soil ball in plastic. Moisture in the soil will be adequate until planting. Standing water in the tub or plastic bag is sure to kill the tree before it is ever planted.

HAVE THE PLANTING hole dug well in advance. A holiday freezeup could prevent you from properly planting the tree.

Mulch the hole with leaves to prevent freezing of the soil. After planting, use the leaves to heavily mulch the tree.

Matching of the spot where you intend to plant the tree with four inches of mature, six inches of peat, or 10 inches of either straw or leaves will allow you to dig the hole for the tree even though the rest of the soil is frozen.

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### Treat Wood, Pine Cones For Colorful Flames

The blazing log in the fireplace can give off flames of many different colors if properly treated beforehand. Adding chemicals to the fire will produce a variety of colors. Chemicals are not added to the fire but to the wood or pine cones before burning.

A solution may be made of the chemicals dissolved in water and kindling or cones soaked and then allowed to burn. Use care when handling any chemicals. Many will ruin the finish on fine wood furniture and corrode metal surfaces.

You can usually buy the crude chemicals at the drugstore or buy the compounds already mixed. The following is a list of chemicals with the colors they give off when they burn.

Purple: lithium chloride  
Violet: potassium chloride  
Orange: calcium chloride  
Red: strontium chloride  
Green: copper sulfate  
Light green: borax  
Blue: copper chloride

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