



DR. R.E. MOON +
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Gardening by the Moon

December 2022 Digest

“O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree

How lovely are thy branches

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree

How lovely are thy branches

Your boughs, so green in Summer-time

Stay bravely green in Winter-time

O Tannenbaum, O Christmas tree

How lovely are thy branches

Let us all remember in our gift giving and our merriment

With our family and friends and loved ones

The real and true meaning of Christmas

The birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ”

O Christmas Tree by Ernst Anschütz



Dr. Moon December *Holiday Tips*

- Remove suckers, broken branches, mistletoe and dead wood from trees
- Apply Neem Oil for the control of winter insects and diseases
- Monitor the forecast for extended periods of freezing temperatures
- Cover outdoor faucets with insulated protectors to prevent winter freeze-ups
- Prune back shrubs
- Treat fire ant mounds
- Irrigation systems should be turned off during this time of the year
- Fresh Christmas Tree Tips:
 - Re-cut the end, and place in water
 - Water daily with warm water
- Gift Idea: give a Christmas plant, like poinsettias to party hosts, etc.
- Kid Friendly Activity: Have kids help rake the falling leaves, but before bagging the leaves they can make piles to jump in!



Mistletoe Kiss or Curse

By Dr. Louie Gradilla

When we think of mistletoe, most of us have a romantic notion of Christmas and kissing, but mistletoe is a parasitic plant that can be harmful to trees.

How does mistletoe spread in trees?

Birds love consuming the berries from mistletoe. Then as they move from tree to tree, they spread mistletoe through their droppings.

How is mistletoe harmful to trees?

Because mistletoe is parasitic, it takes necessary water and nutrients from the tree. This infection weakens the tree making it susceptible to other harmful diseases and parasites.

What to do if your tree has mistletoe?

The most effective way to control mistletoe and prevent its spread is to prune out infested branches as soon as possible. Pruning out limbs is an acceptable technique when dealing with smaller limbs. However, if the mistletoe grows on a more significant branch, cut out the mistletoe and wrap the cut site with duct tape to maintain the tree canopy shape.

Let's keep the Christmas tradition of mistletoe: hanging above a romantic Christmas kiss but out of our trees.



December 2022 Issue of Gardening by the Moon