



**Permanent Christmas Trees**

**E**VER SINCE we began to be excited over the conservation of our forests, a generation or so ago, the question of the Christmas tree has been the cause of much discussion. It has been denounced as a waste and a menace by the party of the extreme right, and defended stoutly by the adherents of the old tradition and by those who claim it has a legitimate place as a market outlet for little trees cleared out of growing forests to give the others a chance to grow normally.

One way out of the dilemma, and a way which many citizens are taking, is to buy a small spruce or fir potted in a tub, and use it as a permanent Christmas tree. A living tree has a good deal of advantage over a cut one that will soon be dead, even though the initial cost is greater. It is healthier, more alive-looking, and if it has been kept properly watered it does not shed its needles all over the place, as a cut tree does as soon as it begins to dry out. It is not squashed out flat from being shipped in a freight car, as cut Christmas trees are apt to be. It can be moved into the house and out again without the fuss and possible ruination to the floor involved in nailing up the ordinary tree. It comes to have the same emotional appeal that the family dog has, especially if you buy it "as a pup" and let it grow up with the children.

And when it is not on duty as a Christmas tree it can stand outdoors, either as a green sentinel alongside the front steps (better have a pair for this purpose) or pot-sunk in the ground as a part of the general planting. When it finally gets too big for indoor use, break the old tub away from the roots and set it permanently in the earth.

*Science News Letter, December 24, 1932*

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