

**Christmas 2009**


# *From the Ground Up* ↑

**Norfolk Island Pines** are native to –you guessed it—Norfolk Island in the South Pacific. Although they will get very large in their native habitat, in a container as a houseplant they are easy to maintain at a reasonable size. Naturally symmetrical with soft textured foliage, it makes a perfect choice to decorate as a Christmas tree. Decorate 3-5 small pots and place them on a tabletop or mantle for a dramatic display. Use one in every room, decorating with a theme for each room. Be creative. Use miniature utensils and cinnamon sticks to decorate one for the kitchen, for example, and don't forget to let the kids decorate one for their own rooms.

As a house plant, the Norfolk Island Pine naturally filters the air. After the holidays, remove all the decorations, place the tree in a pretty pot and use as a houseplant. With a little care you can enjoy your Norfolk Pine for many Christmases to come.



## Plant Facts

**Scientific Name:** *Araucaria heterophylla*

**Common Name:** Norfolk Island Pine

**Light Requirement for Norfolk Island Pine:** Bright Light to Filtered Light

**Water Requirement for Norfolk Island Pine:** Water once a week

**Humidity for Norfolk Island Pine:** Mist frequently to prevent browning

**Temperature for Norfolk Island Pine:** Cool

**Fertilizer for Norfolk Island Pine:** Balanced

**Potting Mix for Norfolk Island Pine:** All-Purpose

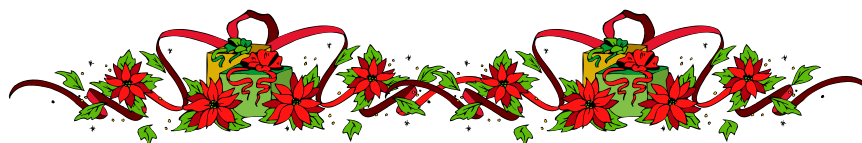
**Propagation of Norfolk Island Pine:** Stem Cuttings

**Care Rating for Norfolk Island Pine:** Easy

***"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy***

***They are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."***

Marcel Proust





# THE AMARYLLIS

is native to South America. The showy funnel-shaped blossoms stand on a single stalk. The weight of the flower will sometimes mean the stem must be supported. A simple bamboo stake or natural twig tied with raffia works well for this purpose. If you receive your amaryllis in bloom, display it wherever you like although cooler temperatures will help prolong the blooming period. Water moderately, keeping soil evenly moist, not soggy. Do not let it sit in water.

Once it stops flowering, cut the flower stalk down to its base, move the plant to a sunny south window and keep evenly moist, fertilizing every two weeks. This allows the leaves to flourish and feed the bulb for next year's bloom. Be sure to water and care for it as long as it has leaves

Once the leaves begin to yellow and wilt naturally do not remove them. Keep the dormant bulb in its pot in a cool, dry place, and then replace the top inch or two of soil and start watering it when it begins to sprout.

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