

THREE Green Tips of Christmas

- 1 Cut or buy your tree locally
- 2 If you can't buy local, order online from a reputable business
- 3 Dispose of your trees and greenery properly — municipal composting is the best option



Learn more at DontMoveFirewood.org/HolidayGreenery »

BCK CISMA NEWSLETTER

November 2018

Spread Spirit Without Spreading Invasives

It's the time of the season to hunt for the perfect tree and gather greenery for the perfect wreath. However, it is important to take precautions with holiday greenery, just as you would with firewood. Moving any type or part of a tree has the potential to transfer invasive pests to new locations.

This is not to say you should avoid using real greenery for your holiday decorations.

There are, in fact, many benefits in buying a real tree. There are many tree farms in Michigan, so by buying a real tree you are supporting local farms and the small businesses that sell them.

According to the National Christmas Tree Association, for every tree harvested, one to three seedlings are planted the following spring. Every one of those trees is helping the environment by using carbon and releasing oxygen as they grow.

A real tree can even continue to be beneficial after the holiday season, by being recycled into mulch and artificial fish reefs, or used for dune stabilization and streambank restoration. Last, but definitely not

least, real greenery gives your home the smell of the holidays without lighting a single candle.

To minimize the chance of introducing a new pest with your holiday greenery, ensure what you purchase is in compliance with quarantines and regulations. This can be done by buying trees and wreaths from local tree farms and businesses not side of the road stands, and

when buying online order from a recognized vendor not from an unknown person. Another option is to obtain the proper permits and cut your own tree from a forest, but do so within 10-20 miles of your

house.

After the holiday season, continue to keep the trees in your area safe by properly disposing of trees and other greenery. Pest and pathogens can escape if the greenery is left in your backyard to decompose.

A great alternative option is to send your tree to a Christmas Tree Recycling program. If your community does not have this option try sending it to local municipalities

to use for mulch or send to the county composting facilities. If all else fails, send your greenery to the solid waste facility.

For more information please visit DontMoveFirewood.org/HolidayGreenery

BCK CISMA is dedicated to curbing the spread of invasive species in Barry, Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties. If you have invasive species concerns within those counties please contact Fallon Januska at fallon.januska@macd.org or 269-908-4136.



Barry • Calhoun • Kalamazoo
BCKCISMA
Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

BCK CISMA THIS MONTH IN NUMBERS

- 1 Survey/Detection
- 1 Workshop- 30 Attendees
- 5 online posts- 89 reached
- 1 news article- 30,000 reached



Park staff prepare to install recycled fish habitat.