



The short, dark days and long freezing nights of December are made warmer and merrier by the many traditions we keep. For thousands of years people all over the world have used plants and trees as part of their holiday celebrations; many of which come from a tree farm, nursery or forest near you.

Deck the Halls...

Ever wonder why we drag trees and greens, holly, ivy and poinsettias into our homes as part of our holiday traditions? It started long ago, when cultures around the world saw plants and trees that retain their leaves and needles during the winter, and seem to ‘never die’, as symbols of eternal life. Northern Europeans collected and placed boughs of holly over their doorways in December to “drive away the evil demons that could be heard howling in the winter wind.”

Plants were also brought indoors to freshen the air and brighten moods during the long, dreary days of winter. In the late 1880s, the poinsettia, a native plant of southern Central America and Africa, was introduced to the United States by the first American ambassador to Mexico, Joel Roberts

Poinsett. There are many legends about how the plant became so closely associated with Christmas, but the fact that they “flower” in the winter and are the traditional red and green colors of Christmas may be the most realistic reason of any to adopt this tropical plant as a holiday favorite.

And let’s not forget the Christmas tree. The year 1510 is officially recognized as the first recorded instance of a live decorated Christmas tree in the city of

