

Eric Baker Estill County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources

When purchasing a cut Christmas tree, remember the following points:

1) a fresh tree is green, although some growers may spray dyes on their trees to tint them and reduce water loss.

2) fresh needles are hard to pull from branch-

3) when bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break.

4) the trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and

5) when the trunk of a tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of falling needles shows that tree is too dry. The fresher the tree, the

Cut Christmas Trees

longer it will retain its needles. The freshest trees are locally grown.

In order to keep your cut Christmas tree looking good longer and decrease needle drop, consider the following tips. After you get the tree home, remove another 1 or 2 inches of the cut end of the stem to allow the sap to flow. Place the tree in a bucket of warm water (the heat will help get the sap flowing and open the water conducting channels in the wood) until you're ready to move it into the house. Select a spot in the home away from any heat sources stoves, registers, fireplaces, etc. Limit the hours that electric lights are lit on the tree because each light is a hot spot on the needles.

the sticky pitch from the mains in the house. tree's water conducting



Keep the cut tree wa- ter to get into the tree. Christmas tree farms is solution: 1 cup of corn the tree with a source of mastreefarms.com syrup and 3 tablespoons simple carbohydrates for of liquid bleach added food.) Continue adding to 1 gallon of water (The the solution to the reserbleach tends to thin out voir as long as the tree re-

Looking for local trees? channels and allows wa- A listing of Kentucky

tered. Use the following The corn syrup provides at the website: kychrist-

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

Wishing A Well® С 6 3

D S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: R equals E

XS V WRVY NRYR VQQLNRU PL KYRKVYR JLSSRR LY PRV, JLGQU

©2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

ALG PMRH OVA MR NVO WYGXH?

CryptoQuote

is **LONGFELLOW**

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, **X** for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

PLHINX HJXVCPB BANJZI HNW

VC MCHCPLWCI RGWA L

XCWANI DANBCH LW PLHINX.

INHLZI UHJWA

©2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

Giving trees These companies and others offer young trees and seedlings packaged and delivered as gifts: www.eternitree.com www.treegivers.com www.seedsoflife.com www.arborday.org www.greenworldproject.net www.treesforachange.com www.nextgenmemorials.com thetreesremember.com - Brenda Weaver © 2020 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



Greatest Birding Moment As the year comes to a close, I love to reflect on my greatest birding moment. This year it was the male painted bunting that came to my yard for an afternoon. He was more beautiful than any picture I've seen. I simply love birding. It's great

> E-mail: birdingbits@cfl.rr.com © 2014 King Features Syndicate, Inc

December 16, 2020

Puzzles4Kids

Answer

CHOSEN	Н	CONES
PRAISE	Α	SPIRE
FLIERS	L	FIRES
OODLES	0	DOLES
TAMEST	Τ	TEAMS

SHIFTS Η **FISTS** Ε **GRABS** BARGES **ALERTS** R STALE **ERASED** Ε **DEARS**

- BLUES NACIRFA CIRTCELE

answer TYPO 0 P I A T E

| T | E |

Even Exchange

M E A N T

ACME

6. Daddy, Dandy Spiral, Spinal 7. France, Prance

King Crossword — **Answers**

Solution time: 25 mins.

Letter Box

Solution

_	F	Е	R	U	Р	D	0	W
U	0	D	Ε	W	F	Р	Ι	R
W	Р	R		0	D	Ε	U	F
R	D	F	0	Р	U	W	Ε	Ι
Ε	С	Р	W	F	-	0	R	D
0	W		D	Е	R	F	Р	U
D	Е	U	F	Ι	0	R	W	Р
Р	R	0	U	D	W	Τ	F	Е
F	Τ	W	Р	R	Ε	U	D	0

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

4	7	9	6	2	5	8	1
6	2	4	1	8	3	9	7
1	8	7	3	5	6	4	2
2	5	1	8	9	4	7	3
7	9	2	4	3	8	6	5
8	3	5	7	6	1	2	9
9	6	3	5	4	7	1	8
5	1	6	9	7	2	3	4
3	4	8	2	1	9	5	6
	6 1 2 7 8 9 5	6 2 1 8 2 5 7 9 8 3 9 6 5 1	6 2 4 1 8 7 2 5 1 7 9 2 8 3 5 9 6 3 5 1 6	6 2 4 1 1 8 7 3 2 5 1 8 7 9 2 4 8 3 5 7 9 6 3 5 5 1 6 9	6 2 4 1 8 1 8 7 3 5 2 5 1 8 9 7 9 2 4 3 8 3 5 7 6 9 6 3 5 4 5 1 6 9 7	6 2 4 1 8 3 1 8 7 3 5 6 2 5 1 8 9 4 7 9 2 4 3 8 8 3 5 7 6 1 9 6 3 5 4 7 5 1 6 9 7 2	6 2 4 1 8 3 9 1 8 7 3 5 6 4 2 5 1 8 9 4 7 7 9 2 4 3 8 6 8 3 5 7 6 1 2 9 6 3 5 4 7 1 5 1 6 9 7 2 3

Bible Trivia Answers (2-1-2); 6) (2-1-2); 6) Bible Trivia Answers (4) (2-1-2); 6) "Test Your Bible Knowledge," with 1,206 multiple-choice guestions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.

Silver; 6) Isaiah 2) Shepherds; 3) No mention of

ANSWERS 1) Neither;

Under the Mistletoe

from Eric Baker, Estill Extension

Mistletoe plants grow in the branches of hardwood trees in Kentucky landscapes. We use mistletoe for Christmas holiday decorating and the tradition of "kissing under the mistletoe" dates back to 16th Century England. One species of American mistletoe is called Phoradendron serotinum, meaning "tree thief", referring to its parasitic nature. There are many legends associated with mistletoe and ancient people were fascinated with the fact that the mistletoe remains green in winter while its deciduous tree hosts lose their leaves.

The true or leafy mistletoes (Phoradendron spp.) are most frequently associated with hardwoods growing in the southern two-thirds of the United States, generally below 40 degrees latitude. Northward extension is probably limited by winter cold temperatures. In Kentucky, we commonly see mistletoe present on ash, cherry, elm, hackberry, hickory, maple, oak, sycamore, tuliptree, walnut, and many other species. The degree of mistletoe parasitism varies over the years. Following a cold winter with below-normal temperatures, the mistletoe dies back, but grows back in a few years. In mild winters, the parasitic plants flourish.

Mistletoe makes much of its own food, but is still a parasite. It sometimes induces galls, swellings or witches brooms at the point of attachment. Mistletoe seeds are spread by birds which feed on the berries. The seeds germinate on young smooth-barked tree branches where they germinate and penetrate the host. Mistletoe plants will tend to cluster where birds have been roosting. Mistletoe plants grow on twigs and branches of their host, extracting water, mineral elements, and some food from the tree. The osmotic pressure of mistletoe is higher than the host tree; therefore the parasite gets the water first and continues to respire even if the host tree is stressed.

Mistletoes are most harmful to the tree during times of stress, and although the degree of damaging may be low in the wild, they can harm trees growing in the already stressful urban environment. They can be controlled by pruning, if needed.

For more information, contact the Estill County Extension Office at 723-4557. Our office will be closed December 21st through January 1st for the holidays. We at the Extension office wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year!



Stickeler's Answer

Stickelers Answer

The word is **disproportionally**. Stickeler's Puzzle on Page 7

Puzzle Answers

BIBLE WORD SEARCH Answers

W H S E Q D U R L B 0 0 U Q TEWE ASWOV S J

You then say he was bruin? brepare coffee or tea, could It a bear were allowed to

SUSWEL CryptoQuip

- Donald Knuth method chosen at random. be generated with a Random numbers should not

SUSWER CryptoQuote

Bible Word Search on Page 7