

# DEAR SANTA







*Editors Note: These letters were typed as the children wrote them. No grammatical or spelling errors were changed.*

**Mrs. Lehnhoff's T-K**

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me a phone and a computer. Will you bring my mom a necklace and a bracelet and my dad a Star Wars character? Please bring Tyson a PS5!  
Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas!  
I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph cookies and milk.  
Merry Christmas to you and Mrs. Claus!  
Lots of Love,  
Oliver Cedar

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me a big John Deere Sprayer and a fish tank with a heater? Will you bring my mom a necklace and my dad a Chiefs shirt? Please bring Briggs a baby toy turtle.  
Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas!  
I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph carrots, milk and cookies!  
Merry Christmas to you and Mrs. Claus!  
Lots of Love,  
Brecken Cronin

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me a skid loader with tracks, forks and a pallet with bricks?  
Will you bring my mom a lantern and my dad a

new Nintendo Switch? Please bring Pete a lawn mower.  
Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas!  
I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph some cookies and milk!  
Merry Christmas to you and Mrs. Claus!  
Lots of Love,  
Michael Erdman

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me a toy lawn mower that spins in circles and an Ipad? Will you bring my mom some cooking stuff and my dad a new tractor and trailer?  
Please bring Raylan an Ipad and Oliver a toy tractor!  
Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas!  
I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph some milk and treats!  
Merry Christmas to you and Mrs. Claus!  
Lots of Love,  
Gavin Mayer

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me monster trucks and tractors? Will you bring my mom some makeup and my dad a tablet?  
Please bring Ethan new army clothes and Byndee a new green shirt!  
Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas!  
I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph some chicken!  
Merry Christmas to you and Mrs. Claus!

Lots of Love,  
Lane Norris

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me a phone and a computer. Will you bring my mom a new water bottle and my dad a computer?  
Please bring Aiden a walker.  
Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas!  
I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph cookies and milk!  
Merry Christmas to you and Mrs. Claus!  
Lots of Love,  
Alayah Rolfes

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me some dinosaurs and some zoo animals? Will you bring my mom a necklace and Nate a nightlight? Will you bring my dad a tractor?  
Please bring Brantley Legos and Sophia a new golden dress!  
Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas!  
I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph cookies, milk and carrots!  
Merry Christmas to you and Mrs. Claus!  
Lots of Love,  
Asher Schroeder

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you

please bring me a grain trailer with a green semi and a big excavator? Will you bring my mom a jewelry box and my dad some yellow Nerd candy?  
Please bring Lucy a doll.  
Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas!  
I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph cookies and milk!  
Merry Christmas to you and Mrs. Claus!  
Lots of Love,  
Jake Seablom

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me a new Barbie and a snowman? Will you bring my mom an Ipad and my dad a new phone?  
Please bring Fallon cowgirl things, Landree some dinosaurs, and Sutton some baby toys.  
Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas!  
I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph cookies!  
Merry Christmas to you and Mrs. Claus!  
Lots of Love,  
Veda Spieler

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me a bouncy house and Christmas coloring books? Will you bring my mom a puzzle and my dad a new car?  
Please bring Hendrix a Spiderman toy!  
Thank you for all

the nice presents you brought me last Christmas!  
I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph cookies and carrots!  
Merry Christmas to you and Mrs. Claus!  
Lots of Love,  
Harper Updike

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me a toy monster truck and a costume mask? Will you bring my mom a swimming pool and Sonny new hunting stuff?  
Please bring Bentley a baseball, Michael a baseball bat, Lizzie a unicorn pillow, Nic a very cool race car, and Chevelle a Stitch set!  
Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas!  
I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph some Snicker bars!  
Merry Christmas to you and Mrs. Claus!  
Lots of Love,  
Hudson Wells

**Mrs. Schnepf's Preschool**

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me slime, a Barbie, and a red chair? Will you bring my mom a picture, and my dad tools? Please bring James baby toys.  
Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas! I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph some milk, cookies, and carrots.  
I wish you and Mrs. Claus a Merry Christmas.  
Lots of Love,  
Ellie Hueser

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me a bug set, tractors, a soccer ball, and a monster truck? Will you bring my mom a new sweat-shirt, and my dad a tractor? Please bring Amelia more Barbies, Aubrey more Barbie cars, and Ainsley more



*Peace, joy, and all the blessings of Christmas be yours this holy season*

**Heartland**  
Residents & Staff  
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**As we celebrate the miracle of Christmas, we give thanks for the blessing of good friends and neighbors like you.**

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**

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*Celebrate The Miracle*

As we join you in giving thanks to our Lord for the gift of His only Son, we would also like to give thanks to you, our neighbors, for all that you've given us this year. Noel!

*Grandma's Garden*  
316 N Main • 376-4692 • Marcus





Letters from page 2

Barbies.

Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas! I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph some cookies and milk.

I wish you and Mrs. Claus a Merry Christmas.

Lots of Love,  
Archer Tuttle

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me make-up, Barbies, and cars? Will you bring my mom Barbies, and my dad cars? Please bring Colton cars.

Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas! I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph some milk, cookies, and carrots.

I wish you and Mrs. Claus a Merry Christmas.

Lots of Love,  
Aubrey Cave

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me unicorn make-up, Barbie make-up, Ken, Barbie, and a Barbie car? Will you bring my mom a new sweatshirt, and my dad a phone and tablet? Please bring Cash Spidermans, and Presley a little baby rocking chair. Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas! I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph some pink cookies and milk.

I wish you and Mrs. Claus a Merry Christmas.

Lots of Love,  
Berkley Peterson

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me a real kitty cat (not a fake one), a pink stroller, and a Barbie? Will you bring my mom a puzzle piece, and my dad a real tractor? Please bring Emmett a Barbie, Elise a Barbie, Wyatt Fortnite, and Weston a pink monster truck.

Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas! I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph

some cookies and carrots.

I wish you and Mrs. Claus a Merry Christmas.

Lots of Love,  
Evie Rupp

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me a new toy gun, a new tractor with a green sprayer on the back, and a new big tractor? Will you bring my mom a new dress, and my dad a big saw? Please bring Beaux a new football, Roy a new skidloader, Jon something to chew on, and Gianna a new baby toy.

Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas! I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph a Christmas tree and water.

I wish you and Mrs. Claus a Merry Christmas.

Lots of Love,  
Kade Brady

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me a skidloader, a dump truck, and new shoes? Will you bring my mom ice? Please bring Kiefer a new cup, Kayson a game, Koy a new book, Kale a purple folder, and Kamden new cats.

Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas! I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph cookies and juice.

I wish you and Mrs. Claus a Merry Christmas.

Lots of Love,  
Kru Ivarson

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me a baby doll that I can change clothes, a Barbie that swims, and a gymnastics Barbie? Will you bring my mom a new belt and my dad socks because they are all torn up and have holes in them? Please bring Rhen a new excavator.

Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas! I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph cookies, milk and carrots.

I wish you and Mrs. Claus a Merry Christmas.

Lots of Love,  
Layne Prentice

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me a toy tractor, a medium baler, and a hay bale? Will you bring my mom a toy cinnamon roll, and my dad a bottle calf toy? Please bring Avery a wheelchair Barbie, and Allie a barn with farm animals in it.

Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas! I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph some cookies and white milk.

I wish you and Mrs. Claus a Merry Christmas.

Lots of Love,  
Levi Priebe

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me a tractor, an ice cream machine, and a dump truck? Will you bring my mom make-up, and dad a big strong car? Please bring Nevaeh toy make-up, and Elijah a lot of baby toys.

Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas! I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph some milk and carrots.

I wish you and Mrs. Claus a Merry Christmas.

Lots of Love,  
Liam Carillo-Henrich

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me a big toy, a Santa, and a robot? Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas! I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph some water and meat.

I wish you and Mrs. Claus a Merry Christmas.

Lots of Love,  
Octavian Casillas

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me a bug kit, a paint set, and a bouncy ball? Will you bring my mom a new sweatshirt, and my dad

spicy chips?

Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas! I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph some apple juice and confetti cookies.

I wish you and Mrs. Claus a Merry Christmas.

Lots of Love,  
Warner Hanson

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year! Would you please bring me a new combine, a new tractor, and a new truck? Will you bring my mom a new bucket, and my dad kitchen things? Please bring Cael a new combine, Gavin a new shelf, and Ava new glue.

Thank you for all the nice presents you brought me last Christmas! I will make sure I leave you and Rudolph some milk, carrots, and cookies.

I wish you and Mrs. Claus a Merry Christmas.

Lots of Love,  
Tristan Sand

Mrs. Ruskamp's Kindergarten

Dear Santa,  
I would like Squid game dolls and Robox.  
Love,  
Jackson

Dear Santa,  
I would like a big basketball and a basketball hoop. Shoulder pads for football, and a tight Royals football helmet with stars.

Love,  
Declan

Dear Santa,  
I would like smelly markers and erasable pens.

Love,  
Quinn

Dear Santa,  
I would like a scooter and toy dinosaurs.

Love,  
Malachi

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Minecraft water bottle and a baby doll. I also want jewelry like necklace and bracelets.

Love,  
Emery

Dear Santa,  
I would like a light saber, some cars and a toy school bus!

Love,  
Brennan

Dear Santa,  
I would like a tight football helmet, a black Royals football jersey with the number 11 and football shoes.

Love,  
Lincoln

Dear Santa,  
I would like a new race car, a Barbie Dream House and a scary monster house.

Love,  
Amina

Dear Santa,  
I would like light saber and a mine craft water bottle.

Love,  
Kyler

Dear Santa,  
I would like remote control car.

Love,  
William

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Furbie, a donut water bottle and donut shoes and a candy can and donut stuffy.

Love,  
Ava

Dear Santa,  
I would like a bean bag chair and coloring board set. I would also like a new stocking and a little toy hunting set.

Love,  
Noah

Dear Santa,  
I would like a donut water bottle and a donut stuffy.

Love, Ainsley

Dear Santa  
continued on page 4



# Season's Greetings

## EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS

Good News! Reliable sources tell us that Christmas is on the way, so it's time to deliver our sincere thanks and best wishes to our readers, advertisers, associates and friends.

We hope you all have a wonderful holiday and want you to know that we really appreciate your loyal readership this past year.

### The Marcus News

206 E. Cedar • Marcus, IA 51035  
Ph#: 376-4712

**Lori, Richard & Mari**





Letters from page 3

Dear Santa,  
I would like a new toy.  
Love,  
Wyatt

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Switch card and game.  
Love,  
Max

Dear Santa,  
I would like a baby doll and Barbie Camper.  
Love,  
Chevelle

Ms. Connelly  
1st Grade

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like a toy police truck and a big construction set.  
Love, Nic

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like a workout set and Legos.  
Love,  
Colton

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like a surprise and a dirt bike.  
Love,  
Ryker

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like a talking Sonic and

all the Sonic characters.  
Love,  
Dane

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like a dirt bike and an iPad.  
Love,  
Ember

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like a square swimming pool and a snowglobe.  
Love,  
Dakota

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like a toy puppy and a make-up box.  
Love,  
Anika

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like a pink dirt bike and a little green dragon.  
Love,  
Morgan

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like a lot of pens and a pink bag you can put letters on.  
Love,  
Olivia

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like a cowboy hat and cowboy boots.  
Love,  
Foster

Mrs. Vander  
Laan's  
1st Grade

Dear Santa,  
I would like 3D dragons and a Pikachu case for my cards.  
Love,  
Atley

Dear Santa,  
I would like a light grey soft bean bag and a lego set of a racecar.  
Love,  
Kale

Dear Santa,  
I would like a power wheel that looks like a raptor, and a lego set that's a racecar track for my cars to race on.  
Love,  
Kaiden

Dear Santa,  
I would like new Barbies, and new clothes with Barbie on them.  
Love,  
Paisley

Dear Santa,  
I would like a football, and a lot of racecars.  
Love,  
Andrew

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Sonic squishmallow, and Minecraft stuff like skel-

etons and spiders and creepers and zombies.  
Love,  
Leland

Dear Santa,  
I would like a new horse, and new ropes for our horses.  
Love,  
Fallon

Dear Santa,  
I would like golden Pokemon cards and Ninja Turtle action figures.  
Love,  
Charlie

Dear Santa,  
I would like mini brands, and gymnastics Barbies.  
Love,  
Madisen

Dear Santa,  
I would like a phone and one of those watches where you can play games and music.  
Love,  
Isabel

Dear Santa,  
I would like a baby doll and a pillow of Stitch.  
Love,  
Scarlett

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Sonic toy and a Mario game.  
Love,  
Hendrix

Mrs. Lehnhoff  
2nd Grade

Dear Santa,  
Are you getting ready for Christmas? Are the elves getting presents ready? I want a bar of gold and some snacks and a Nintendo 2. Did you have a good time eating treats? Merry Christmas with a ho ho ho!  
From Raylan

Dear Santa,  
What do you do when your done with Christmas? I want a Venom stuffy! I also want a phone, some baby sitter club books, makeup, tablet, Christmas tree, Christmas ornaments, pink jeep, rainbow hige doll, k-pop Demon hunters water bat and lots of Diamond ring. Santa also what do the elves eat?  
From, Kendall

Dear Santa,  
How are you doing? How are your elves doing? I want a dirt bike PS5, four wheeler, nintendo, real elf, remote control car and a Phone. I hope I get my toys I want! I need a real elf in my shelf in the morning. Merry Christmas

Santa Clause!! Holly Jolly Christmas!  
Love Aubrey

Dear Santa,  
Did you like your break? I want a college football 26 game and pixel panda youth football gloves. Last I want a phone. I hope your elves are good.  
From Jaxton Hill

Dear Santa,  
I hope you are having a very good Christmas. My elf is named Coca. I want a Pank bb gun for Christmas. I also want a aata mgic for Christmas, I also want a PIP on for Christmas.  
Halle

Dear Santa,  
I hope you have a good Christmas. Santa if you cant get me this it is ok. Can I have bous please can I have a big Twis please. Plaes hope me bad get dethr. Can I have toy for my cat can I have sunnl toyus for me boy.  
From Sophia

Dear Santa,  
When do you start to work? Can you get me a

Dear Santa  
continued on page 5

# Deck THE HALLS

As we spruce up our place for the holiday season, we recall the many good friends who have helped to make us feel at ho...ho...home here!! Merry Christmas and many thanks.

**Marcus Lumber Company**  
409 N Locust St.  
376-4141 or  
1-800-658-5400  
MARCUS, IOWA

# Merry Christmas

May the season bring joy and contentment for you and all those you hold dear. We really appreciate your patronage this year.

**Schmillen Construction, Inc.**  
Phone: 376-2249 • Marcus, IA

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Letters from page 4

baby doll with matching pajamas and clothes. A PS5 for my bother and a side by side and a phone. I hope you have a good Christmas.  
Love Tinley

Dear Santa,  
Are you having a good year? Are the elves doing good? May I have an Iphone, a vanity, a desk, some tiny hangers, and low wrestling pads. I hope you have a great time delivering presents.  
From Willow

Dear Santa,  
How are the reindeer? For Christmas I really want to have a letter from my Grandpa Emmet and Mary Lou. Have a really good Christmas.  
From Jaxon

Dear Santa,  
Do my partenst move the elf? The things I am hoping for computer, I hope to celebrate Christmas with my cousins and I would like toys like barbis or car. Have a Merry Christmas.  
Love Izzy

Dear Santa,  
Are you doing good? I have been good. This Christmas I want a remote control truck with a camper and a dirt bike. Also, I want a toy car. Last I want a toy truck.  
Merry Christmas!  
From Aiden

Dear Santa,  
I hope the elves are doing good! For Christmas I want animal crossing legos. I also want little night mares 3. Another thing I want is squishes! And the last thing is a PS5.  
Have a good Christmas!  
From Emerson

Dear Santa,  
How was your Thanksgiving! I would like the game college football 26, shoes, and a dirt bike. I hope your Christmas!  
From Jamesen

Dear Santa,  
I hope you have been good. How have the elves been? How have the raindeer been? I have been a good boy. I would want a combien dan dclothes and some

boots and a blanket/  
Happy new year, Merry Christmas.  
From Koy for Santa

Dear Santa,  
Santa how is it going at the North Pole? Is Mrs. Claus making cookies? For Christmas I would like a new ipad, a friends lego set, and a new water bottle. I hope you have a Merry Christmas. PS I'll leave you and the raindeer some carrots and cookeies.  
Love Mai

Dear Santa,  
I hope you are excited for christmas!!! I want some Grinch stuff any grinch stuff. I want a phone. I want my family to have a good Christmas!!! Have a good Christmas!!!  
Kenzie Todd

Mrs. Lehnhoff  
2nd Grade

Dear Santa,  
I would like a baby brown and white money with floppy ears. I want a red guitar. And I have a desk for drawing? I also want a blanket  
From Nolan Sierra

Dear Santa,  
How are you doing? I've been nice to my siblings this year. I hope your reindeer are ready. May I please have some chicken treats? On the bag it says "Love my girls." Could I have lots of candy? The Kinder Joy is my favorite kind.  
From Allie Priebe

Dear Santa,  
I want a football. Can I have a scooter? I want a PS5. Please bring me a baseball bat.  
From. Maddox Kasio

Dear Santa,  
You are the best. I want a puppy! I love Santa.  
Love Raven Shriver

Dear Santa,  
I want a baby doll for Christmas and a Barbie  
From Emmy Simons

Dear Santa, I hope you have a good time and I hope the reindeer do too. So can I have 1000 Robux and shoes and Legos?  
Love Nick. Noyes

Dear Santa,  
Please can I have a switch? I want a PS5 and a X-box card. Can I please have some Robux? How was your break? I hope your elves get a good break.  
Love Corbin Miller

Dear Santa,  
How are you doing? I hope your reindeer are having a good time. May I please have a slap bracelet animal, pug books and candy.  
Love Luci Seablom

Dear Santa,  
I hope you are safe and warm. Are the reindeer ready to go flying? I want a present. Can you give me a doll for Christmas? I love my gentle doll. Then I can put the doll in the bath.  
From your friend Natalia Martin.

Dear Santa,  
Can I please have a Nintendo and a PS5? If you go to my house. Can you put my presents under the tree? Thank you Santa.  
From Kurtis Peters.

Dear Santa,  
I hope you had a good year. Can I please have a sewing machine? Christmas is my favorite holiday. I can't wait to listen to all of the laughs and jokes and fun memories to make. Have a great Christmas.  
Love Zadyn Hanson

Dear Santa,  
How are you doing? I please want a PS5 and a puppy and the best day of my life. Thank you you! I also want Robux.  
From Robby Goodburn

Dear Santa,  
Are your elves having fun? Can I please have a dog and a cat because cats and dogs are cute. Can I please have a tablet so I can play games and watch movies? Can I please have a house?  
Love. Lizzi Wells

Dear Santa,  
Can I please have a Robux and v-bucks? I have been good to my

Dear Santa  
continued on page 6

May you have a bright, joyous, fun-filled holiday season!



Michelle Steffen, Carl Nelson & Shanda Schlinz

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

State Savings Bank

MARCUS and CHEROKEE

<https://www.statesavings.bank>

A very Merry Christmas wish to All with abundant blessings all during the New Year!

BFS

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Letters from page 5

brothers and sisters.  
Merry Christmas  
From Dominic Campe

Dear Santa  
I hope you make all the presents and get a good break after Christmas. Can I please have a snow globe for Christmas. I am happy and excited for Christmas. I have really wanted a snow globe.  
Love, Hailey Starr

Dear Santa,  
How are you doing. I hope your elves get a good break. I hope you're having a good time. May I please have a PS5 for Christmas? I've been nice to my sister this year. I would also like a puppy for Christmas.  
From Teddy Godbersen

Dear Santa,  
I hope you are good. Santa, I want a toy and a little chicken. I think you are the best Santa. I love you Santa. I want a Nintendo switch and a PS5 so I can play with my brother. I want a new water bottle and a new blanket.  
From Anderson Ramos-Tiniguar

# Marcus Hometown Christmas



Winner of the Hometown Christmas Parade float was the Matt & Caitlin Dreckman family



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

We've got much to celebrate this season,  
And your kind patronage is one reason,  
That we're filled with joy and cheer;  
At this special time of year.  
And now without further delay,  
We wish you all a great holiday!



## RFC

REMSEN FARMERS COOP

## Wishing Our Dear Friends A Merry Christmas

Wishing all of our neighbors a string of glad tidings this holiday season and beyond. For your patronage, please accept our deepest gratitude.



Back row---Left to Right Christina Wilkens, Ben Letsche, Kyle Wester, Mary Ellen Wilkens, Laura Letsche  
Front row--Left to Right Amanda Peck, Sara Schneider, Olivia Ney, Rachel Holmes

# FSB

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## Holiday Plant Care

Keep the season fresh and festive with tips from an extension consumer horticulture specialist

Holiday plants bring color and life to our homes during the winter months. From the scent of a fresh-cut Christmas tree to the bright bracts of poinsettias and the bold blooms of amaryllis, these plants are a big part of seasonal decor.

Aaron Steil, consumer horticulture extension specialist at Iowa State University, offers care tips to keep holiday plants healthy and appealing throughout the holidays and beyond.

Keep cut trees watered

A fresh-cut Christmas tree is often the centerpiece of holiday decorating. When choosing a tree, look for green needles that bend easily and stay attached when you shake the branches. Before placing the tree in its stand, cut about half an inch off the base of the trunk. This helps

the tree absorb water. Keep the stand filled with water at all times. A tree can absorb a gallon or more in the first day.

Additionally, place the tree away from fireplaces, radiators and sunny windows to prevent it from drying out too quickly. "Checking the water level daily is the most important thing you can do to keep your tree fresh," said Steil.

Live wreaths stay fresh outdoors

Live wreaths are another holiday favorite. To keep them looking fresh, start with greenery that is not dry or losing its needles. "The ideal conditions for wreaths are moist and cool," Steil noted.

In most cases, live wreaths will only last a week indoors before drying out; however, in outdoor winter temperatures, they can remain green for months. Keeping wreaths out of direct sunlight and heat can also further their longevity. Additionally, an anti-desiccant spray can

help slow moisture loss, keeping them fresher for a longer period.

Don't overwater poinsettias

Poinsettias are known for their colorful bracts and deep green leaves. They thrive in bright, indirect light and temperatures between 65 F and 75 F. Keep them away from drafts and heating vents to avoid leaf drop. Water them only when the top of the soil feels dry, and avoid letting the plants sit in water.

If your plant is wrapped in decorative foil, drain the excess water. "Most poinsettias do not need abundant watering through December," said Steil. "Overwatering might be the number one reason why poinsettias die before the end of the year."

Amaryllis makes an easy-to-care-for gift

Amaryllis bulbs produce large, showy flowers that brighten any space. Plant the bulb in a pot with the top third of the bulb above the soil. Water lightly un-

til growth starts, then keep the soil moist. Next, place the pot in bright light so the stalk grows strong. "When growing in low light, the stalk may get quite tall and lean. By placing it in abundant light, flower stalks will stay shorter and are less likely to tip over," mentioned Steil.

Waxed amaryllis bulbs have become popular for their convenience and ease. They require no soil or watering. Simply place the bulb in a bright location and enjoy the blooms. "Waxed bulbs are a great low-maintenance option, making

them a great gift," Steil said.

Save plants at the end of the holidays

After the holidays, don't throw your holiday plants away. While poinsettias and waxed amaryllis bulbs are intended to be composted at the end of the season, they can be saved and even rebloom with the right care. After the flowers fade on amaryllis bulbs, cut the stalk, but leave the leaves. Continue watering and fertilizing to allow the bulb to store energy for next year. "Amaryllis

can bloom year after year if you care for the bulb properly," Steil explained.

Evergreen branches from wreaths and trees can also be composted or chipped for mulch. Trees can be set outside for the remainder of winter for birds and animals to use as shelter, or branches can be laid over perennial garden beds to provide additional protection from the cold.

"With a little attention, holiday plants will stay fresh and add beauty to your celebrations," said Steil.

To Our

Valued Customers

Thank you for putting your trust in us. One thing we can always count on is the integrity and kindness of the many customers we have the privilege to serve. We would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Cleghorn

Marcus

Lobby & Drive-Up Hours

Transaction Cut-Off

December 24	Open until NOON	Lobby & Drive-Up: NOON Mobile Deposit: 1:00 pm <small>(to be included in Wednesday's business)</small>
December 25	CLOSED	
December 31	Open until 3:00 pm	Lobby & Drive-Up: 3:00 pm Mobile Deposit: 3:00 pm <small>(to be included in 2025 business)</small>
January 1	CLOSED	

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