

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Norfolk Island pine: fine tiers for bright, cooler rooms

Araucaria heterophylla brings the outline of a small conifer indoors. To retain its regular branches, it needs above all light, balanced moisture and distance from heating.



AI-created scene based on the original shop photograph. Size reference: 12 cm pot · approximately 25–30 cm. Decoration is not included; this is not a scale product photograph.

Grow with knowledge.

A collection for observation and reference. Detailed explanations to help you make care decisions suited to your plant and its position.

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PLANT PORTRAIT

Araucaria heterophylla

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Botanical classification	<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>
Family	Araucariaceae
Origin	Norfolk Island in the South Pacific
Delivery size	12 cm pot · approximately 25–30 cm
Habit and special feature	Evergreen conifer with branches arranged in tiers

Care at a glance

Observe, check and adapt care to the position and season. This table provides guidance for everyday practice.

Topic	What to do	Why it helps
Light	Place in bright conditions and turn slightly now and then.	Even light supports the regular shape.
Water	Allow the surface to dry slightly and keep the root ball consistently supplied.	Severe dry periods can damage branches.
Drainage	Remove leftover water from the cachepot.	Persistent wetness stresses roots.
Indoor climate	Keep fairly cool and away from heating.	Dry warm air encourages brown tips.
Compost	Use loose, free-draining compost in a pot with holes.	The root ball needs air and moisture.
Feeding	Feed moderately during growth according to the label.	Demand is usually lower in winter.
Pruning	Do not cut off the main shoot; remove only dead parts.	The tree form is hard to preserve after cutting the tip.
Winter	Overwinter bright and frost-free.	Norfolk Island pine is not a native frost-hardy fir.

Knowledge that grows

An island tree in a young format

Norfolk Island pine comes from Norfolk Island and is not botanically a fir of the genus *Abies*. Young araucarias carry soft, fine-looking foliage on regularly arranged tiers of branches. A distinct leading shoot develops with age. In its natural habitat, this becomes a large tree; indoors, pot and conditions limit growth. The calm, symmetrical shape is its special appeal. It stays most attractive when individual tiers can continue growing undamaged.

Delivered small, with a long-term perspective

This plant is offered in a 12 cm pot with about 25–30 cm total height. A bright sideboard in a fairly cool room is often better than a spot close to a radiator. Branches should not be pressed against a wall or curtain. Heavy Christmas ornaments would strain the delicate branches; the plant is a living companion all year. The cachepot and room styling in the image are examples, not promised contents.

Distribute light evenly

Choose plenty of daylight, preferably without sudden hot summer sunshine. Turn the pot slightly now and then so the tree does not lean permanently towards the light source. A cooler, bright room often suits it better than very warm, dry indoor air. The plant nevertheless remains frost-free and protected from cold draughts. Its German name, indoor fir, must not encourage placing it outside in winter like a native garden fir.

Do not dry out or leave standing in water

Check the uppermost compost layer and water when it has dried slightly. The entire root ball should not remain dry for an extended period. Water thoroughly as needed and remove excess. Permanently heavy, wet compost also causes harm. Brown, dry branch tips may be connected with dry periods or heating air, among other causes. Fully dried branches do not turn green again with extra water. What matters is improving conditions for the healthy part.

Respect the leading shoot

Do not cut the tip to keep the tree smaller. Such a cut can permanently change its characteristic shape. Carefully remove only clearly dead or damaged parts. When repotting into loose, free-draining houseplant compost, disturb roots as little as possible and provide only slightly more room. A container with drainage holes remains essential. Feed moderately according to the label during visible growth, with much greater restraint in a low-light winter.

Inspect fine branches regularly

Check shoot bases and foliage for mealybugs or other sap-sucking pests. Remove dust carefully without bending the branches. Better room humidity is more useful than occasional sprays beside hot heating. Avoid frequent abrupt changes of position. If several lower tiers are lost, check light, root-ball moisture and root condition. Patience matters: a missing branch does not simply grow back in the same place.

Pictures and details

Images and descriptions from this portrait. Decorative items are not included in the offer.



Original shop photograph: Norfolk Island pine. 12 cm pot · approximately 25–30 cm. Natural variation is possible.

Good to know

Can I plant it in the garden at Christmas?

No. *Araucaria heterophylla* is not suitable as an ordinary garden fir for our cold winters.

May I cut off the tip?

This should be avoided as a way to limit size because it can permanently change the typical habit.

Why are lower branches turning brown?

Check dry periods, constant wetness, insufficient light and dry heating warmth. Dead branches will not become green again.

Is the listing already a large tree?

No. It is a young plant with about 25–30 cm total height in a 12 cm pot.

The matching offer

[Plant in the shop](#)

The linked shop is in German. Product details, availability and delivery information are provided in that shop.

[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer (in German)