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consumer radio briefs

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Buying Fireplace Wood

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The fireside months have arrived and Forest Products Specialist Lewis Hendricks of the University of Minnesota says heat values, ease of starting, fragrance and sparking are all factors to consider when buying firewood.

Oak, maple, locust, hickory and beech are among the woods that provide maximum heat. They may be more difficult to ignite, but they produce few sparks. Pine, cedar and hemlock are less dense woods that produce less heat per cord of wood. They also spark more, Hendricks says.

If a fragrant fire is your goal, apple and cherry are best. Other fragrant woods include maple, cedar, hemlock and pine.

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Houseplants Hate Winter

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
DOCUMENTS
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ST. PAUL CAMPUS

No matter how you feel about winter, you probably like it better than your houseplants, say horticulturists at the University of Minnesota. Symptoms of low light often occur. These include small leaves, long thin stems, pale color and flower failure. Lowered humidity sometimes causes moisture stress symptoms.

Many people overwater their houseplants during the winter. Generally from November through February plants are in a slow growth period. Heavy watering can contribute to root loss and plant decline, they say.

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