How Might You Reuse Your Christmas Tree When The Season Is Over?

**Mulch?** Whether it's with the woodchips or needles, mulch is a great way to keep your yard trees healthy and moist during the cold winter season. Pine needles are full of nutrients that enhance the PH of your soil if its more alkaline and allow your soil to breathe without becoming dense and compacted. Be sure to douse your pine needles with water and mix well in your compost pile.

**Wildlife habitat and feed?** The tree doesn't have to be living for wildlife to utilize. Hang bird feeders, dip pinecones in peanut butter then cover it in bird seed, or thread popcorn onto string using a needle and use as 'tinsel'. Mix suet with plenty of bird seed, squish it into cookie cutters and push the shapes out onto greaseproof paper. Partly unwind a paperclip and embed it in each shape to create a hook for hanging. Place your shapes in the freezer to set.

**Ashes for the garden?** After you've burned the wood from your tree, gather the ashes and spread them on your garden. Wood ash contains potassium and lime (among other nutrients), which help plants thrive, or mix the ashes into a compost. The ashes are also useful in keeping insects away.

**Plant cover?** Cut off the branches of your tree and lay them on your garden bed, the boughs will protect your plants from winter freezes and spring thaws. By laying them on your garden, you're giving your plants a steady temperature for the cold months. The limbs also work well as a garden edge.