

To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors



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‘Tis the Season to Choose and Cut Your Own Christmas Tree

Dover-The busy season for many Christmas tree growers in Delaware starts this week and the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) and the Delaware Christmas Tree Growers Association (DCGTA) wants to help you find pre-cut, choose-and-cut and live tree operations close to home.

Delaware has Christmas tree farms in all three counties with beautiful vibrant trees just waiting to celebrate the holiday season with you. The following is a list of growers in Delaware:

- Christmas Trees from the Good Earth - 302.492.3354
- Coleman’s Christmas Tree Farm - 302.378.1990 or 302.378.8949
- Dyer’s Tree Farm - 302.734.2111
- E-Z Acres - 302.674.4383
- Evergreen Farms - 302.734.1755
- Fir Tree Acres - 302.697.7396
- Fischers’ Farm - 302.744.9786
- Hemlock Harbour Nursery - 302.422.2174
- Hickman Tree Farm - 302.653.6088
- Landis Tree Farm - 302.947.2404
- Loblolly Acres - 302.284.9255
- McCarthy Tree Farm - 302.836.3171
- Pandel’s Christmas Trees - 302.284.4904
- Poynter’s Tree Farm & Christmas Shop - 302.284.4801
- Raintree Farms - 302.378.4756
- Ryan’s Trees/Airport Farms - 302.398.3112
- Shelterwood Farm - 302.492.8071
- Spence’s Tree Farm - 302.335.4460
- Sposato’s Pine Hollow Christmas Tree Farm - 302.644.0711
- Sykes, Joseph & Nancy - 302.472.6041
- The Brick Barn - 302.856.7552
- Turning Pointe Farm - 302.492.0231
- Yuletide Farm - 302.422.2234

For a complete list of Christmas tree growers in the First State or if you want more information about any of the farms listed or to find a specific location, check the Delaware Department of Agriculture’s website: M:\dda\marketing\forms\2007\1107_ChristmasTreeGrowerslist.pdf

Meantime, here are some Christmas tree tips from the DDA:

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Choosing a Christmas tree:

- Christmas trees come in many varieties, sizes, shapes, and even shades of green. For this reason, you should visit the operation only in the daytime. The shape and size of a tree will depend on where you plan to place it and the height of the ceiling in your home;
- Although most people prefer a well-rounded and shapely tree, you may find it more practical and economical to buy one that is somewhat flat or sparsely branched in one side, so that it fits into a corner or against a wall;
- While "choose-and-cut" purchasers continue to gain in popularity, most consumers still buy their trees from retail lots. Freshness of cut trees can be assured by applying these simple tests:
 1. Bend a needle to check its resilience. If it does not break, but springs back into position, the tree is fresh.
 2. Bump the base of the tree on the ground. If needles don't fall, the tree is fresh. (Some varieties don't retain their needles as well as others, and some trees may harbor loose needles that dropped earlier and lodge among the foliage.)
 3. Feel the bottom of the trunk. If it is sappy and moist, the tree is fresh.
 4. To make the best decision on cut trees, use a composite evaluation.

From the Tree Farm to Your Home:

- Today, most holiday trees are grown as a specialized crop on farm land. Christmas tree farmers plant particular varieties of trees for attractive foliage or other special features. In Delaware, it usually takes seven to 10 years of care to grow to a good seven-foot Christmas tree; and
- When selecting that perfect Christmas tree for your home, keep in mind the advantages of buying a Delaware-grown Christmas tree. When you buy from a local grower, you know that you are getting the freshest tree possible. You and your family will also enjoy the experience of visiting a Delaware tree farm and the fond memories of looking for that perfect tree.

Caring for Your Christmas tree At Home:

- Regardless of the type of tree you purchase, you will need to give it proper care to insure that it remains fresh, attractive and safe throughout the holiday season. Keep a cut tree in a cool, shaded area, sheltered from wind, with the trunk in a bucket of water until you are ready for set up;
- Just before putting a cut tree into its stand, cut an inch or two off the butt end. This fresh cut will allow the tree to more readily take up water once it is moved inside; and
- Fresh trees take up water at a very fast rate. You should check the water level two hours after setting up the tree. Then, check the water level at least once daily to see that it is above the bottom of the tree's trunk. It is not uncommon for trees to take up a quart or more of water daily.

Besides their trees, many growers also sell holiday wreaths, roping, garland, poinsettias and tree stands, as well as a variety of decorations, crafts and gifts. Visitors can also enjoy wagon rides, marshmallow roasting and petting zoos at some farms.