

CHRISTMAS TREES

Evergreens are aesthetically pleasing in landscapes and conservation plantings. Some species of evergreens can also be grown as a cash crop. Their application and use in a variety of settings adds to their popularity and importance.

Choosing the right species of evergreen to grow is important. Before planting, check with the local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), or the Regional Forester's office at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), for a list of evergreen species suitable for your purpose and site conditions (i.e., soil type). Seedlings can be obtained through the Saratoga Nursery of the DEC or the SWCD.

Christmas tree growing can be a satisfying full or part time profession. Its profitability in terms of an investment or occupation is dependent upon tree market value at the time of harvest and production inputs. Like any other worthwhile venture - planning and hard work are the key ingredients to success!

Christmas trees are an important agricultural crop. Their production requires considerable knowledge and skill on: proper site selection, soil analysis, pest management (insect, disease, and weed), trimming, shaping, harvesting, marketing, sales, transport, and financing. It is important to understand these topics when deciding if Christmas tree production is right for you.

There are over 1500 families operating Christmas tree plantations in New York State. Total acreage in production is estimated at 17,000 acres. Many of these families are members of the Christmas Tree Farmers Association of New York, Inc. (CTFANY).

CTFANY serves as a valuable source of information. Please call for more information about Christmas tree growing: 1-800-484-1286 pin number 8231 or visit their web site at: www.chritmastreesny.org.

FACTS TO KNOW

FOR GROWING CHRISTMAS TREES:

- Present production costs of some species can be as high as \$17.00 each. Wholesale prices range from \$15.00-\$25.00 each by species.
- It may take up to eight years before you are able to harvest your first crop.
- The movement of pine Christmas trees and products (logs, bark, wreaths, roping, etc.) is regulated in 40 upstate counties for pine shoot beetle and 10 upstate counties for scleroderris canker disease. Trees shipped to markets outside of the state must be inspected and certified as being free of insects and diseases.
- It is strongly recommended that Scotch pine not be planted for a Christmas tree due to: 1) the large number of pest problems that require extra costs to control; 2) regulations for movement of pine trees and products; and 3) average market value may be lower than production costs.
- The species of Christmas trees that are the most popular and the highest value are: Fraser, balsam & concolor fir, Douglas-fir, as well as Colorado blue & white spruce.



FACTS TO KNOW WHEN USING EVERGREENS IN CONSERVATION PLANTINGS:

- Creates windbreaks preventing soil erosion.
- Provides valuable wildlife habitat and food sources.
- Enhances soil stabilization by reducing soil erosion and sediment runoff.
- Protects and improves water quality.
- Improves air quality by reducing odor and other problems.
- Common evergreen species usually recommended are: white pine, red pine, white spruce, Norway spruce, balsam fir, white cedar, and red cedar (juniper).



CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANTINGS

Conservation and environmental plantings preserve and enhance our natural resources. Better land use is achieved through erosion and sediment control, flood prevention, irrigation, land drainage, and water quality management practices. Remember to select the evergreen species best suited to your particular growing site and purpose.

This is a cooperative educational brochure that is sponsored by:

- *Cornell Cooperative Extension*
- *Christmas Tree Farmers Association of New York, Inc.*
- *New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets*
- *New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*
- *State Soil Water and Conservation Districts*
- *SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry*

***For additional information
please contact:***

Your local Soil and Water Conservation Districts

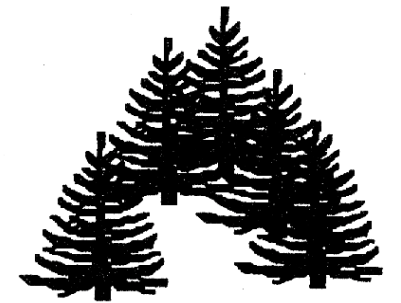
*The Regional Forester's Office at
the New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation*

Cornell Cooperative Extension

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and Forestry*

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Plan
Before
You Plant
Advice for
Growers of
Evergreens



**Christmas Tree
Plantations
Conservation/
Environmental Plantings**