



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

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Maryland Christmas Tree Facts

- According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture for Maryland, there are more than 200 Christmas tree growers in the state with nearly 3,000 acres in production.
- According to the Census of Agriculture, Maryland Christmas tree growers harvested 77,800 trees in 2007 valued at \$2.4 million.
- While the Fraser Fir is a popular choice, there are many additional varieties grown throughout the state. The Canaan is similarly beautiful as the Fraser Fir and grown more easily and in more locations throughout the state.
- Additional Christmas trees varieties grown in Maryland include: Douglas Fir, Concolor Fir, Scotch Pine, White Pine, and Blue Spruce.
- It can take as many as 15 years to grow a tree of typical height (6 - 7 feet) or as little as 4 years, but the average growing time is 7 years.

(Sources: National Christmas Tree Association, Maryland Christmas Tree Growers Association)

Christmas Tree Facts

- ❖ An acre of land can hold 1,200 to 1,500 trees and provide the daily oxygen requirement for 18 people.
- ❖ When growers plant trees, they are creating a wildlife habitat.
- ❖ The roots of the trees hold soil together to help control erosion and protect water supplies.
- ❖ Live trees require less energy to produce than artificial trees, which are mostly petroleum based. The natural variety also burns cleaner when incinerated.
- ❖ Christmas trees are given a new life after being composted or chipped for mulch.
- ❖ Oregon produces the most real Christmas trees. In 2007, 6.9 million trees were there.
- ❖ The first decorated Christmas was in Riga, Latvia in 1510.
- ❖ The first Christmas tree retail lot in the United States was started in 1851 in New York.
- ❖ Christmas trees remove dust and pollen from the air.

- ❖ Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states, including Hawaii and Alaska.
- ❖ 100,000 people are employed in the Christmas tree industry.
- ❖ 98 percent of all Christmas trees are grown on farms.
- ❖ Artificial trees will last for six years in your home, but for centuries in a landfill.
- ❖ In the first week, a tree in your home will consume as much as a quart of water per day.
- ❖ Tree planting, shearing and mowing can take up to 65 hours a week, 52 weeks a year.
- ❖ Maryland tree growers are “international”. They supply many embassies in Washington, D.C. with trees.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture’s Top 10 Reasons to Buy a Fresh, Locally Grown Christmas Tree

10. While they're growing, real Christmas trees absorb carbon dioxide and other gases and emit fresh oxygen, unlike artificial trees which are petroleum-based.
9. A real Christmas tree is biodegradable, which means it can be easily reused or recycled for mulch and other purposes, whereas an artificial tree is only used for six to nine years before it is thrown away, remaining in a landfill for many years.
8. Christmas trees can be recycled in a variety of ways, including local government programs to chip them into mulch that returns valuable nutrients to the soil.
7. The farms that grow Christmas trees stabilize soil, protect water supplies and provide wildlife habitat while creating scenic green belts.
6. When growing in open space, a 3” in diameter Douglas-fir tree can reduce atmospheric carbon by 23 pounds and intercept 102 gallons of stormwater runoff per year (Davey.com tree calculator).
5. Christmas tree growers plant one to three new seedlings for every tree they harvest, rarely using fertilizer after planting.
4. When you buy directly from a farmer, that dollar will circulate through the local economy four times, strengthening our communities.
3. When farmers are profitable, they are able to stay on the land, keeping it open and productive for the benefit of all.
2. Evergreen trees look and smell wonderful and are part of a sentimental American tradition.
1. Visiting a tree farm is great holiday fun for the entire family.

One more reason: **Buying a real, fresh, local tree helps keep Maryland smart, green and growing.**