

# Kiwanis Christmas Tree Varieties & Facts

\*Varieties may vary year to year

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iwanis Christmas Trees are shipped up from Oregon. The trees are never frozen during the shipping process which accounts for our trees to stay fresh and last longer than any other supplier in town. All of the Kiwanis trees proceeds go right back into our local community. When you purchase a Kiwanis Christmas tree your not only getting a great tree but you are supporting local non-profits, community project such as park cleanup and more.

## Tree Care

We can cut the bottom of the trunk off for you before you bring it home or you can do it at home either way you need to make sure you cut off about 1-2" so your tree can absorb water. If your tree ever runs out of water it may seal itself again in which case you will need to trim another inch off of the trunk to reopen it.

We suggest that you transport your tree in a SUV or covered truck bed so your tree doesn't freeze during transportation to your home. Once you have your tree at home you need to water it daily (with just plain water) to maintain the moisture in your tree. Some of our trees have been know to last for months after Christmas with proper watering.

Our trees vary in price range depending on variety and height from \$30-\$250. To learn more about the tree varieties please read on....



# Tree Varieties

## **Noble Fir**

In the wild, the trees are tall, beautifully symmetrical and grow to over 200 feet in height. The bark is smooth with resin blisters when young and changes to brownish-gray plates with age. The needles are roughly 4-sided (similar to spruce), over 1 inch long, bluish-green but appearing silver because of 2 white rows of stomata on the underside and 1-2 rows on the upper surface.

Long considered an excellent Christmas tree because of its beauty, stiff branches and long keep ability, the species is growing in popularity (between 25% and 30% of the fresh tree market in the Pacific Northwest). It is also widely used in the greenery business to make wreaths, door swags, garland and other Christmas products.

## **Fraser Fir**

Fraser fir is a uniformly pyramid-shaped tree which reaches a maximum height of about 80 feet and a diameter of 1-1.5 feet. Strong branches are turned slightly upward which gives the tree a compact appearance.

The combination of form, needle retention, dark blue-green color, pleasant scent and excellent shipping characteristics has led to Fraser fir being a most popular Christmas tree species. North Carolina produces the majority of Fraser fir Christmas trees. It requires from 7 to 10 years in the field to produce a 6-7 feet tree.

## **Grand Fir**

The grand fir is one of the tallest firs, reaching heights of 300 feet. It is easily distinguished from other Pacific Northwest firs by its sprays of lustrous needles in two distinct rows.

It is a minor Christmas tree species throughout Washington and Oregon, but a major species in the inland states of Idaho and Montana. It produces a beautiful, thick foliated tree when sheared and is known for its strong fragrance. In most areas, it will produce a marketable tree in eight to ten years.

## Scotch Pine

Scotch or Scots pine is an introduced species which has been widely planted for the purpose of producing Christmas trees. It is an extremely hardy species which is adaptable to a wide variety of soils and sites. As a Christmas tree, it is known for its dark green foliage and stiff branches which are well suited for decorating with both light and heavy ornaments.

As a Christmas tree Scotch pine is probably the most commonly used species in the United States. Because of its ease of planting, generally high planting survival and favorable response to plantation culture it has been widely planted throughout much of the eastern United States and Canada.

## Douglas Fir

This wide ranging species grows from 70 to 250 feet tall. The branches are spreading to drooping, the buds sharply pointed and the bark is very thick, fluted, ridged, rough and dark brown.

The Douglas-fir has been the major Christmas tree species used in the Pacific Northwest since the 1920's. During the following 40 years, nearly all trees were harvested from forest lands. Since the 1950's, the transformation from growing trees in the wild to culturing them on plantations has been dramatic. Today, few trees come from forest lands.

## White Spruce

White spruce is a medium-sized conifer found in northeastern United States and throughout Canada. It is the state tree of South Dakota. White spruce has a cone-shaped crown, and when grown in the open develops a conical crown which extends nearly to the ground. This habit along with the spreading branches give it a nice appearance for use as an ornamental. Trees often reach 80-140 feet in height and 1.5 to 3 feet in diameter. The oldest white spruce may reach 300 years of age. As a Christmas tree, white spruce has excellent foliage color, short stiff needles and a good natural shape. Needle retention is better than some of other spruce species.

