There are many different species of conifers that can be used as Christmas trees. Use this guide to learn the specific characteristics of each type and pick a tree that is best for your home.

Fraser fir, the most commonly used, has 1 inch, soft needles with dark green color on top and a silvery-green sheen below. The space between the branches makes it is easier to decorate than some other trees. The Fraser Firs are popular due to their fragrant scent and a great needle retention. Keep well-watered.

Canaan fir (White fir) is very similar to Fraser fir. Growers like it due to its high resistance to the root rot disease.

Concolor Fir has needles of bluish color, similar to blue spruce. But the needles are softer, blunt at the end so less spiky. When crushed, they let out citrusy scent that some likened to a scent of grapefruit. It has a pleasing natural shape and good needle retention. It is known to occasionally provoke allergies, unlike the other coniferous trees.
**Balsam Fir** has a beautiful dark green color. The needles, positioned along the branches in a flat formation, are shiny and soft. The branches are flexible, they may not be able to hold heavier ornaments. These trees are narrower than average evergreens - a good fit for tighter spaces - and have an attractive shape. Needle retention is good. The tree gives off a pleasant scent of balsam wood.

**Noble fir** is deep green in color and has lovely branch shape. The branches are sturdy and the needles are not too sharp to decorate easily. Like the Fraser Fir, the Noble Fir's branches have good spacing between branches so it's easy to hang ornaments on them. Also, good for making Christmas wreaths.
**Colorado blue spruce** has a nice pyramidal shape with strong limbs that can hold heavy ornaments. The Blue Spruce is known for its lovely blue foliage which can also appear silvery. If your decorating scheme does not include this bluish tint, this tree may not be right for you. In addition, the needles are sharp, keeping house pets like cats away from climbing. Still branches hold the ornaments well, horizontally positioned, not bending. Structure is great, mid-longevity on needle retention.

**Douglas fir** is a beautiful Christmas tree with soft shiny, green needles. It is not a true fir, belonging to a different genus. Often called Oregon pine, it is native to the West coast. It grows well in our area and is popular for its sage-green, soft needles. Buy Douglas fir that has been freshly cut and keep it watered for the best needle retention.
**Norway spruce** is less common. It is a beautiful tree but does not hold its needles well and should be purchased just a week or so before Christmas Day. Cut fresh and kept properly watered. Both, Colorado blue spruce and Norway spruce have sharp needles that make them hard to handle and decorate.

**White Pine** has soft, long needles of silverish color. The flexible branches can be difficult to decorate with heavier ornaments. The tree can also appear ‘empty’ inside since the needles grow at the branches’ ends. But it looks great when lit! Great needle retention.

*Merry Christmas!*