

Christmas Tree Guide

Choose that perfect tree for your home!

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



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



Concolor Fir with bluish color needles is like blue spruce but the needles are softer and blunt at the end so less spiky.



When crushed they have a citrusy scent that some liken to the scent of grapefruit. It has a pleasing natural shape and good needle retention. The tree is known to occasionally provoke allergies, unlike the other conifers.



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 so may not be able to hold heavier ornaments. These trees are narrower than average evergreens with an attractive shape so use in tight spaces. Needle retention is good. The tree gives off a pleasant scent of balsam wood.



Noble Fir is deep green and has a lovely branch shape. The branches are sturdy, and the needles are not too sharp, so decoration is easy. Like the Fraser fir, the Noble fir's branches have good spacing between them, so it is easy to hang ornaments. It is also a good choice for making Christmas wreaths.



Colorado Blue Spruce has a nice pyramidal shape and strong limbs that can hold heavy ornaments. It is known for its lovely blue needles which can also appear silvery. If your decorating scheme does not include this bluish tint, this tree may not be right for you. The needles are sharp, keeping house pets like cats away from climbing. The branches are stiff and hold ornaments well. Needle retention is average.



Douglas fir makes a beautiful Christmas tree with its soft shiny green needles. It is not a true fir. 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 a Douglas fir that has been freshly cut and keep it watered for 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 keep well - 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 silvery 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. It looks great when lit! The long, soft needles have great retention. It also has a nice pine-like forest scent.

