

Cut Your Own Christmas Tree This Year

As our every day world becomes more hectic people long to return to simpler times and tradition of the past. Cutting the Christmas tree is a tradition that is becoming a more popular family activity each year.

While it is no longer possible to cut a tree in the wild, tree farms now let us enjoy cutting our own tree and give us an even better tree at the same time.

Christmas tree farms produce trees as a crop. Selected varieties are planted, pruned, and nurtured for seven to ten years to provide the perfect focal point for our Holiday decoration.

In Northeastern Illinois we are fortunate to have quite a few Christmas tree farms. Most will open the day after Thanksgiving, so you can take advantage of the long weekend to select a tree.

Before starting out, measure the space in your home the tree will occupy. Then measure the tree you select before you cut it. Trees always look much smaller outdoors.

Give the tree farm a call to make sure it is open. Then bundle up the kids and pack a picnic lunch and head out for a great day in the outdoors. Be sure to dress warmly and wear boots so you don't get too cold and wet to enjoy the outing.

Start early in the day so you can select your tree and get it cut before darkness sets in around 4:00 p.m.

While most tree farms have saws and rope, it saves time if you can bring your own.

When you get your tree home re-cut the bottom. Keep the tree in a bucket of water in a cool place until you are ready to take it indoors.

The following is a list of Christmas tree farms where you may cut trees. There may be others that we don't know about. If you find one, let us know and we will add it to our list.

Antioch — Hayden's Christmas Tree Farm - 395-4127

42880 Hunt Club Road, Antioch 60002 (Take I-94 to Route 173 exit, turn west ½ mile to Hunt Club Road, turn north and go 1½ mile.) Red, White, Scotch Pine; Spruce, Red Cedar — Trees 10 feet and under — Daylight hours only — Limited selection — Open only the first two weekends after Thanksgiving.

Aurora — Marmion Abbey

Butterfield Road, Aurora 60504. Red, White, Scotch Pines — Evergreen boughs available — Open 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., starting Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Downers Grove — Ide Tree Farm - 985-9299

1500 - 83rd Street, Downers Grove 60516 (From I-55, take Lemont exit 271B to 2nd traffic light, turn left on 83rd, go ½ mile, on right.) Some Red Pine; Austrian, White, Scotch Pine; Douglas Fir; Norway Spruce 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. — Friday, Saturday, Sunday ONLY, starting Saturday after Thanksgiving (may close early if run out of trees, and/or if weather is bad).

Downers Grove — LaRue Tree Farm - 985-7890

340 Oldfield Road, Downers Grove 60516. Red, White, Scotch Pine - Limited supply. Weekends only, starting after December 8 — 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. — Open only for two weeks.

Grayslake — Century Tree Farm - 362-7571

17516 W. Gages Lake Road, Grayslake 60030. Red, White, Scotch Pine. Weekdays, 1-4 p.m., Weekends, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. — starting November 25th.

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