

Where to Cut Your Christmas Tree

The long Thanksgiving weekend has become the official start of the Holiday Season. According to James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Horticulturist in Cook County, that is when Christmas Tree Farms throughout our area throw open their gates welcoming folks to find and cut their family trees.

More and more young families are starting their own traditions for the holidays, and cutting the tree is one that the kids will long remember.

In times past, Christmas trees were selected in the forests of the Northland, and only those lucky enough to live there could cut their own trees. Today, nearly all Christmas trees are plantation grown, often on marginal farmland close to urban centers. Christmas tree farms are located in nearly all states.

In Chicagoland, we are fortunate to have tree farms close by. The list this year includes many of these. But, since some of these farms run out of trees early, more farms have been added for folks who like to cut the trees closer to Christmas. Because of the need to travel farther, these farms tend to have trees later in the season.

The farms are open during daylight hours. Call ahead to make sure of hours, weather and availability of the kind of tree you want.

It helps to bring your own saw, rope to tie the tree to your car, and something like an old bedsheet or blanket to wrap the tree so it doesn't dry out if you have a long ride home.

Pack up the kids and a picnic lunch, and plan to make a day of it. Be sure to wear warm clothing, boots, a hat, gloves and a slicker or parka if it rains or snows. Properly dressed, you will enjoy yourselves and get lots of fresh air and exercise at the same time.

When you get your tree home, set the base in a bucket of warm water. If you don't intend to set it up right away, put the tree in a protected place where it won't freeze up and out of the wind and sun.

When you get ready to set it up, re-cut the base so it takes up water.

ILLINOIS

AMBOY — Red Pines Tree Farm

Brair Knoll Rd., Amboy, IL 61310 (815) 857-2638

1½ miles southwest of Amboy — follow signs

Scotch Pine and a few Red Pine

Open Saturday after Thanksgiving through December 24

Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily

Bring your own saw

AURORA — Marmion Abbey

Butterfield Road, Aurora, IL 60504

(708) 897-3011 for directions — recorded message

Red, White, Scotch, Austrian, Ponderosa Pines

Open Friday after Thanksgiving through December 23

Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

DOWNERS GROVE — Ide Tree Farm

1500 83rd Street, Downers Grove, IL 60516

(708) 985-9299

From I-55, take Lemont exit 271B to 2nd traffic light,

turn left on 83rd, go ½ mile, on right.

Red, Austrian, White, and Scotch Pine, Norway Spruce

Open first or second weekend after Thanksgiving

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday **only** until sold out

Closed during heavy snows or rains

KANKAKEE — Tammen Tree-Berry Farm

RR 2, Wilmington, IL 60481

(815) 939-4060 or (815) 458-6264

I-55 South to Rt. 129 (Braidwood exit). Proceed 4 miles to Route 113. Turn East for 1 mile on Route 113 to Essex Road, turn South 3½ miles.

White and Scotch Pine, Spruce, and Fir

Good supply available — Some already cut trees on lot

Open Friday after Thanksgiving until they run out

Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily

LA SALLE — Coon Grove Plantation

Located south and east of Mendota off old Hwy. 51. 61301

(815) 539-5621

Scotch Pine and a few Spruce

Open Friday after Thanksgiving

Hours: 9 a.m. to dark daily

CALL AFTER DECEMBER 10

LEMONT — Hassert Tree Farm

Route 5, Joliet Road, Lemont, IL 60439 (708) 739-7951

Scotch Pine — Evergreen boughs available

Open Friday after Thanksgiving

Hours: Daylight hours

If below 10°F, NO TREES will be cut — **CALL FIRST**

MALTA — Needles 'N Cones Tree Farm

350 East South Malta Rd., Malta, IL 60150 (815) 825-2215

Scotch, White, and Red Pines and Fir, some Spruce

Handmade indoor-outdoor wreaths, roping, door swags

Open Friday after Thanksgiving

Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment, Fridays,

Saturdays and Sundays only

You pick — they cut

OREGON — Sinnissippi Forest

3122 S. Lowden Road, Oregon, IL 61061 (815) 732-6240

3 miles south of Oregon off Daysville Road

White and Scotch Pine, Fraser Fir, Scotch and White greens,

roping, wreaths and handmade ornaments

Open Friday after Thanksgiving

Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily

Cut your own (Scotch and White Pine only)

Hours for cut your own: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily

OSWEGO — Oswego Christmas Tree Farm

Box 6624, Rt. 34, Oswego, IL 60543 (708) 554-8105

Scotch, Austrian and White Pine, and Douglas Fir

Open Saturday after Thanksgiving until December 24

Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

PLANO — Smith's Nursery

RR #1, Plano, IL 60545 (708) 552-8452

5 miles north of Plano on Creek Road off Galena Rd.

(Chicago Rd.)

Fir, Spruce and Pine. Pine greens with purchased tree

Precut Scotch and White Pines, Fraser Fir, White and

Blue Spruce

Open December 6

Hours: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekends

Cut your own or they will cut

(cont'd. page 4)

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Schneider, IN 219/552-0552

- IN 800-553-0552
- IL 800-553-0554

(Christmas Tree cont'd.)

THOMSON — P. K. McGinnis and Sons
Route 84, Thomson, IL 61285 (815) 259-2245
Near Mississippi River
Jack, Scotch, White and Red Pine
Open Monday before Thanksgiving, closed Thanksgiving Day
Hours: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily

WILMINGTON — Whispering Sands
228 Hintze Road, Wilmington, IL 60481 (815) 476-9275
20 miles south of Joliet, take Route 55 south to Wilmington exit (River Rd.) Turn left on River Road, turn right at next stop sign (Route 53), proceed into town of Wilmington. Turn left at light (Route 102). Proceed 3 miles on Rt. 102 to oil storage tanks on right. At end of cyclone fence, turn right onto gravel road for about ¾ miles. Look for signs.

Red, Jack, White and Scotch Pine
Open Saturday after Thanksgiving
Hours: Weekends during daylight hours

WOODSTOCK — Oney's Christmas Tree Farm
16608 Route 14, Woodstock, IL 60098 (815) 338-4108
Red, White and Scotch Pine. Petting zoo, wreaths, roping, center pieces, bundles of boughs, wagon rides, arts and crafts, and Mrs. Claus will be visiting during tree cutting time.
Open Friday after Thanksgiving
Hours: 9 a.m. until dark, closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays
Pre-cut trees available

CALL BEFORE COMING OUT

INDIANA

CULVER — Apples Christmas Tree and Blueberry Farm
12902 State Route 17, Culver, IN 46511 (219) 842-2672
Near the intersection of Indiana 8 and 17 about 4½ miles north of Culver
Scotch and White Pines, some Norway Spruce, wreaths and greenery. Santa Shop with live deer.

Open Friday after Thanksgiving until Christmas Eve
Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Chicago Time)

WALKERTON — Stuntz Hochstetlers Pines, Inc.
20451 Tyler Road, Walkerton, IN 46574 (219) 586-2663
Off Indiana 23, 1½ miles northeast of Walkerton
Scotch and White Pine. Fresh wreaths, garland, and Christmas Shop
Open immediately and until December 24
Hours: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Chicago Time)

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