



No portion of this article may be reproduced without  
express written permission of Style Publishing Group, LLC.  
©2007 • All rights reserved.



Style Publishing Group  
P.O. Box 1676  
Frisco, Texas 75034  
Phone: 972.335.1181  
Toll Free: 877.781.7067  
Fax: 214.722.2313

E-mail: [info@friscostyle.com](mailto:info@friscostyle.com)  
Web: [www.friscostyle.com](http://www.friscostyle.com)

**Ad Sales: (972) 335-1306**



photo from dreamstime.com

## Live or Artificial - the Seasonal Choice

By Beth Robinson

**DOES YOUR FAMILY** prefer an artificial Christmas tree or do you load the kids in the car for the annual pilgrimage to the local Christmas tree lot to select the perfect live tree? Maybe you venture a little further to a tree farm and roam the rows and rows of trees, ax in hand, in search of the ideal selection to grace your home.

If allergies, space or convenience don't limit the selection this year to long- or short-needle "life-like" plastic or aluminum trees, consider the many options and benefits presented by the traditional and natural choice of a live tree. Before conducting the required prep work for the arrival of the tree, consider the business of getting the tree to your local corner lot.

There are approximately 30-35 million live trees sold in the U.S. each year representing a \$1.4 billion industry. Approximately 21,000 Christmas tree growers in the U.S. employ 100,000 people, full- or part-time assuring the

arrival of fresh smelling trees in the grocery or home improvement store parking lot.

The states best suited for and producing the most Christmas trees, are Oregon, North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, California and Washington. Our preferences over the years have made the most popular type of trees the balsam fir, Douglas-fir, Fraser fir, noble fir, Scotch pine, Virginia pine and white pine.

Texas has recently become a more competitive player in the live Christmas tree industry with 100,000 Texas grown trees sold last year. As in every region the amount of land required is determined by the rows and spacing of trees. With eight foot centers between trees, 681 trees per acre can be planted, nine foot rows yield 538 trees per acre.

And for every tree harvested one to three seedlings are planted to begin the process again. On average, seven years will pass for the seedling to reach the

optimum height of six to seven feet for the preferred retail size of a Christmas tree.

As in previous years, a live tree will cost an average of \$30 less than an artificial tree. In 2005 consumers paid a mean price of \$41.90 for a live tree and \$72.20 for an artificial one. Of those live trees purchased 88 percent were pre-cut verses 12 percent that cut their own.

Frisco residents will find a number of Christmas tree lots with fresh live trees suitable to grace their home this Christmas. For families looking for tree farms to cut their own tree several locations are within easy driving distance in Collin, Denton and Grayson Counties. What a perfect way to kick off the season with a family outing to the tree farm. To find the most convenient tree farm visit [www.christmastree.org](http://www.christmastree.org) for more information.

---

*Beth Robinson is editor of Frisco STYLE Magazine.*

## Tree Varieties Grown in Texas



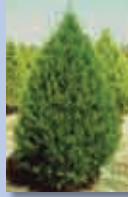
### AFGHAN PINE

The west Texas counterpart of the Virginia Pine, this tree thrives in the alkaline soils found in that part of our state. The two trees are very similar in appearance. Typically, the sturdy branches on the Afghan are spaced somewhat farther apart, giving this tree a slightly more open appearance than its east Texas counterpart. It has a mild fragrance and also keeps well as a cut tree.



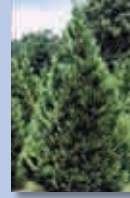
### CAROLINA SAPPHIRE

Carolina Sapphire is a cultivar of Arizona cypress. Its best characteristics include fast growth, a beautiful blue color and an excellent aroma.



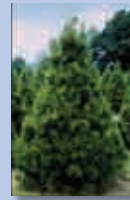
### EASTERN RED CEDAR

Eastern Red Cedar is the traditional Christmas tree that grow naturally in the South. It is normally dense, has outstanding aroma, a pleasant green color and a natural "Christmas tree" shape. Its drawbacks include sticky needles and a short house life.



### LELAND CYPRESS

Customers like Leland Cypress because it is a very beautiful Christmas tree and if kept in water, it will outlast any other tree without leaving needles in the carpet.



### VIRGINIA PINE

Virginia Pine is a short-needed pine with pleasant pine fragrance, dense foliage and good growth rates. It has been by far the most widely planted southern Christmas tree.



# frisco STYLE MAGAZINE

Style Publishing Group

P.O. Box 1676

Frisco, Texas 75034

Phone: 972.335.1181

Toll Free: 877.781.7067

Fax: 214.722.2313

E-mail: [info@friscostyle.com](mailto:info@friscostyle.com)

Web: [www.friscostyle.com](http://www.friscostyle.com)

**Ad Sales: (972) 335-1306**

