

Chapter 1 : Christmas tree - Wikipedia

Where the Christmas-Tree Grew Mary E. Wilkins. From *Young Lucretia and Other Stories* (Harper & Brothers; New York:). It was afternoon recess at No. 4 District School, in Warner.

Many landowners have decided to start growing Christmas trees. Our expert gardening advisor Kathy Bosin adds, "Growing Christmas trees can be a rewarding and profitable experience. Think ahead about mowing and maintenance. Step 1â€”Deciding Which Kind to Grow Make yourself familiar with the most common kinds of Christmas trees and the reasons for their popularity, so you can choose which one to grow. Virginia pine This is one of the most common species of Christmas tree. The tree itself has thick bark and can grow to 8 feet in under 5 years. Afghan pine This is the second most common kind of Christmas tree. Its seedlings prefer slightly alkaline or neutral soils. It grows just as fast as the Virginia pine, but is a bit more tolerant to harsh soil and climatic conditions. Other common species of Christmas trees include the red cedar, deodar cedar, sand pine, and Arizona cypress. Step 2â€”Soil Requirements Christmas trees are tolerant to most varieties of soils, but will do best in fine, sandy loams and worst in soils that are either coarse, dense, and sandy or heavily clayed. The ideal pH range for a Virginia pine is 5. The soil must remain permanently moist: At the same time, though, drainage is critical: Step 3â€”Preparing the Site The amount of hard work you invest during this preliminary stage will be directly proportional to the overall health of your Christmas trees. Picking a place Do not choose a site near man-made structures; even mature timber stands could cause unwanted shading. Avoid steep slopes also, since they could contribute to soil erosion or poor soil drainage. Getting it ready The pocket gopher is an unusual pest, which is destructive during the planting time only. Toxic baits will eliminate it. Clear your site of disruptions like logs and stumps, and dig up any wild shrubs or bushes growing on the site. Step 4â€”Ordering Seeds The best time to order seedlings is Februaryâ€”May, as this is the best time to plant Christmas trees. Summers are not a good time to plant, since the seedlings are vulnerable to the rise in temperature. Step 5â€”Planting You can either plant by hand or use a planting machine. Check for J-rooting, a phenomenon wherein the roots are curved backward, toward the topsoil. It is highly damaging and can kill a developing tree. Spacing is critical, and usually a 6x6â€”foot plot is allocated for each seedling. You can add compost, but it is not critical. Step 7â€”Pest Control The most common insect that attacks the Christmas tree is the Nantucket moth, or pine tip moth. Its presence can be confirmed by checking the tips of the lateral branches during the growing season. Pest-inflicted branches have hollowed tips. Christmas trees are highly sensitive to a wide range of chemicals, so make sure you know what the side effects of any insecticide would be before you use it. Step 8â€”Weed Control Weeds can severely harm the tree by draining the soil of vital moisture. Try pulling weeds by hand before resorting to herbicides. If you must do so, spray herbicides during fall or spring.

Chapter 2 : History of the Christmas Tree

Young Lucretia and Other Stories is a collection of thirteen short stories by Mary Eleanor Wilkins. Individual stories in the book were originally published in leading literary magazines such as *Harper's Young People* and *St. Nicholas Magazine* between and

They are a low maintenance crop, ideal for a spare time project, and can produce a good income for years to come. By planting a portion of your acreage with new trees each year, it will provide a steady income as the trees mature in an average of eight years and are harvested and re-planted. How much income can Christmas tree farming produce? Most tree varieties are ready to harvest at the popular height of 5 to 7 feet in around eight years. To provide a stable yearly income, most growers plant or re-plant one-eighth of their acreage every year, which is about trees per acre. As the costs of growing Christmas trees are mostly labor for maintenance, such as mowing for weed control and shearing the young trees, a small grower who does their own work can keep most of the profits. The three most popular Christmas trees are Balsam fir, Douglas fir and Scotch pine. Balsam fir is a popular tree species in the eastern U. Balsam fir has a natural cone shape, so it needs fewer shearing to look perfect. Douglas fir is the most widely grown Christmas tree in the northwest U. Douglas fir prefers a mild growing climate, with well-drained soil. Scotch pine is popular with growers because it is a fast grower in a wide range of soils and climates. Because Scotch pine develops a deep tap root, it is more drought-tolerant than many other species. However, it does require regular shearing to develop the desirable cone shape of a traditional Christmas tree. Most growers purchase their trees as seedlings or transplants a seedling that has been transplanted to a new growing bed to encourage root growth from one of the wholesale growers around the country specializing in conifers. The cost of seedlings or transplants is low when you consider that the mature trees can be harvested two years sooner than trees grown from seed. One of the big attractions of Christmas tree farming is the small amount of work it takes. Little is required for the first four years, then an annual pruning helps the trees bush out for the fuller shape that buyers prefer. Many growers make as much, or more, from selling greens, garlands and wreaths than from their cut tree sales. Some growers prefer to hand wire their wreaths, while others prefer a simple foot-powered wreath machine that uses metal clamps. An experienced wreath maker can produce 6 to 8 wreaths per hour. Growers near a town find selling their trees direct to customers brings the best profits, although it takes more time. For other growers, selling their trees with the help of a community organization such as Kiwanis or Rotary makes sense, as the prices are higher than selling to wholesalers. This green business can be a win-win for you and our planet. As you can see, growing Christmas trees on a tree farm can bring much higher profits to growers. Start-up costs are low, and demand is growing every year.

Chapter 3 : Choose a Live Christmas Tree | This Old House

Each Christmas tree has a particular set of characteristics that makes them unique to where they grow. Whether for their profile, color, or fragrance, some trees are more preferred than others. In , the USDA Census of Agriculture released a list of Christmas trees sold by species.

Joe Imel David, who works for the Roberts Family Farm in Guston, makes all of their fresh wreaths and swags during the Christmas season. Joe Imel Getting the tree home takes everybody: Syllas Stevens, 8, left, helps mom Sara wrap the tree in netting, while dad Sean and sister Nya supervise. Rhonda Roberts Family traditions and Christmas trees take root at local farms across the Commonwealth Put a little extra fa-la-la-la into your Christmas celebration by ringing in the holiday season with a trip to a nearby tree farm. Hutton-Loyd Tree Farm Situated on more than a thousand mostly forested acres about 2 miles from Plummers Landing in Fleming County, Hutton-Loyd Tree Farm has been growing Christmas trees and family traditions since on the family-owned farm. Visitors use a map to explore 30 acres of growing and mature Christmas trees like white pine, Norway spruce, and blue spruce, all nestled in a valley among rolling hills. Farm manager Herb Loyd, member of Fleming-Mason Energy Cooperative, believes tree farms offer much more than a seasonal tree lot. For children 10 and under, special prize ornaments will also be hidden among the trees for a chance to win a wrapped gift from beneath the office Christmas tree. Wethington and his wife, Mary Rose, once raised cattle and tobacco on their Jeffersontown farm. But then the couple decided to try something differentâ€”Christmas tree farming. George suggests first wrapping the white pine in lights for added limb support prior to hanging ornaments. Before customers head out to select a tree, George lends them a bow saw. Once in the fields, families enjoy spending time posing for photos and children take turns cutting the tree. Michels Family Farm Jeff and Pam Michels, along with their sons Adam and Owen, have sold Christmas trees while spreading holiday cheer to Owen County-area residents for the past four years. With nearly 4 acres of trees to choose from, folks have no problem finding their perfect tree. The majority of trees are Scotch pine, though some white pine and Canaan fir are also available. They are trimmed and shaped in a variety of ways to have different shapes of trees. Adam adds that he enjoys offering local folks and urban dwellers alike the opportunity to cut their own Christmas tree. Hartman, also a Kentucky Woodland Owners Association member, has nurtured and sold Christmas trees for 20 years. However, this year-round job is no small task. Trees are typically planted in March or April. Hartman says for a farm his size, seedlings are planted in one day. May or June is tree-shaping season. The new growth, usually from 6 inches to 3 feet long, is fairly tender and takes Hartman about 2 weeks to shear. Mowing and manicuring is done in the fall before customers begin arriving in December in search of their perfect tree. Hartman says families often let him know how grateful they are to share the experience of cutting a live tree with their children. Baldwin says Christmas tree farms offer people opportunities to connect one-on-one with nature. There, it stays throughout the season. When it comes to choosing a tree to take home, Baldwin Farms offers 12 acres of Norway spruce, white spruce, and white pine. Some Fraser firs from North Carolina are also available. Of course, Baldwin decorates her home with a live tree. In , she selected a Norway spruce with help from her grandchildren. We do the same thing when selecting our own tree. Support local tree farms Of the many Christmas tree farms dotting the state, approximately 20 are Kentucky Christmas Tree Association members. For anyone looking for ways to save money this holiday season, buying a Kentucky-grown tree is budget-friendly. McManus says selecting and cutting your own tree is a fun activity with lots of photo-snapping moments. If sap does form, cut a bit more off the base. Place your tree in water as soon as possible. A water-filled bucket will work until the tree is ready to place in its stand. Monitor water levels in the stand to help ensure your tree lasts throughout the holiday season. According to the National Christmas Tree Association website, generally, stands should provide 1 quart of water per inch of stem diameter. Check your lights for exposed wires. If there are any, be sure to replace them with UL-approved lights before decorating the tree. Contact with your local fire department to see if they offer Christmas tree dips in a fire-retardant material. After-Christmas recycling Prevent further drying by avoiding direct heat sources, such as vent registers, direct sunlight, or fireplaces. But remember,

DOWNLOAD PDF WHERE THE CHRISTMAS-TREE GREW

your tree is used to being indoors. Slowly acclimate it to cooler outdoor temperatures. Below are a few of the farms across the state. You can also go online to [www](#).

Chapter 4 : Where Christmas Trees Grow - Kentucky Living

A Christmas tree is a decorated tree, usually an evergreen conifer such as spruce, pine, or fir or an artificial tree of similar appearance, associated with the celebration of Christmas.

Painted by Oluf Olufsen Bagge. The relevance of ancient pre-Christian customs to the 16th-century German initiation of the Christmas tree custom is disputed. Resistance to the custom was often because of its supposed Lutheran origins. Tree worship was common among the pagan Europeans and survived their conversion to Christianity in the Scandinavian customs of decorating the house and barn with evergreens at the New Year to scare away the devil and of setting up a tree for the birds during Christmas time. A later folk version of the story adds the detail that an evergreen tree grew in place of the felled oak, telling them about how its triangular shape reminds humanity of the Trinity and how it points to heaven. In such plays, a tree decorated with apples to represent the forbidden fruit and wafers to represent the Eucharist and redemption was used as a setting for the play. Like the Christmas crib, the Paradise tree was later placed in homes. The apples were replaced by round objects such as shiny red balls. The Regiment of the local high-Sacristans of the Cistercian Order refers to what may be considered one of the oldest references to the Christmas tree: On the Christmas eve, you will look for a large Branch of green laurel, and you shall reap many red oranges, and place them on the branches that come of the laurel, specifically as you have seen, and in every orange you shall put a candle, and hang the Branch by a rope in the pole, which shall be by the candle of the altar-mor. Its 16th-century origins are sometimes associated with Protestant Christian reformer Martin Luther, who is said to have first added lighted candles to an evergreen tree. Chichilakis are most common in the Guria and Samegrelo regions of Georgia near the Black Sea, but they can also be found in some stores around the capital of Tbilisi. Basil on January 1. The branches were decorated with apples, nuts, cookies, colored paper, stars made of straw, ribbons and colored wafers. Some people believed that the tree had magical powers that were linked with harvesting and success in the next year. In the late 18th and early 19th century, these traditions were almost completely replaced by the German custom of decorating the Christmas tree. Estonia, Latvia and Germany[edit] Girl with Christmas tree, painting by Franz Skarbina €” Customs of erecting decorated trees in wintertime can be traced to Christmas celebrations in Renaissance-era guilds in Northern Germany and Livonia. The first evidence of decorated trees associated with Christmas Day are trees in guildhalls decorated with sweets to be enjoyed by the apprentices and children. In Livonia present-day Estonia and Latvia, in , , and , the Brotherhood of Blackheads erected a tree for the holidays in their guild houses in Reval now Tallinn and Riga. On the last night of the celebrations leading up to the holidays, the tree was taken to the Town Hall Square, where the members of the brotherhood danced around it. After the Protestant Reformation, such trees are seen in the houses of upper-class Protestant families as a counterpart to the Catholic Christmas cribs. This transition from the guild hall to the bourgeois family homes in the Protestant parts of Germany ultimately gives rise to the modern tradition as it developed in the 18th and 19th centuries. Wax candles, expensive items at the time, are found in attestations from the late 18th century. Along the lower Rhine, an area of Roman Catholic majority, the Christmas tree was largely regarded as a Protestant custom. As a result, it remained confined to the upper Rhineland for a relatively long period of time. The custom did eventually gain wider acceptance beginning around by way of Prussian officials who emigrated there following the Congress of Vienna. Only at the start of the 20th century did Christmas trees appear inside churches, this time in a new brightly lit form. Overbeek In the early 19th century, the custom became popular among the nobility and spread to royal courts as far as Russia. Princess Henrietta of Nassau-Weilburg introduced the Christmas tree to Vienna in , and the custom spread across Austria in the following years. In Denmark a Danish newspaper claims that the first attested Christmas tree was lit in by countess Wilhemine of Holsteinborg. It was the aging countess who told the story of the first Danish Christmas tree to the Danish writer Hans Christian Andersen in He had published a fairy-tale called The Fir-Tree in , recounting the fate of a fir-tree being used as a Christmas tree. In her journal for Christmas Eve, the delighted year-old princess wrote: There were two large round tables on which were placed two trees hung with lights and sugar ornaments. All the presents being placed round the trees In a

newspaper advert for Christmas trees makes clear their smart cachet, German origins and association with children and gift-giving. In fewer than ten years their use in better-off homes was widespread. By a northern provincial newspaper contained an advert alluding casually to them, [45] as well as reporting the accidental death of a woman whose dress caught fire as she lit the tapers on a Christmas tree.

Chapter 5 : Where the Christmas-Tree Grew

The First Christmas Tree. And in the duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, where Queen Charlotte grew up, it was the custom to deck out a single yew branch.

Please help improve it by removing unnecessary details and making it more concise. During Christmastime, Lucretia is invited by the other schoolchildren to trim the Christmas tree at the schoolhouse in preparation for the Christmas celebrations. She felt like she did not fit in with the other children and that her family was dishonored. In order to maintain her family honor and to fit in with the other children, Lucretia asks her aunts for presents, but they refuse her request, so Lucretia wrapped parcels for herself and left them at the schoolhouse while her aunts were out. When she finally opened the packages, the aunts saw that the parcel contents were objects from their house. One package however, contained a rag doll made by Mrs. Emmons, one of the neighboring women. When Lucretia saw this doll, she cried and expressed surprise that someone had given her a gift. On the way home, she confessed to her aunts that she wanted the other children to think that she had things. The aunts confiscated her rag doll, and sent her to bed before deciding they were being too harsh. The next day, on Christmas Day, the aunts bought Lucretia a big wax doll, bedstead, baby carriage and bureau. Lennox deliberating with her sister, Maria Crooker, on what to do about the fact that Mr. Lennox and Cynthy were both out of town, and Mrs. Lennox and Aunt Maria were physically incapable of going to the store, the women decided to send Mrs. After giving Fidelia instructions to knock on the side door of Ms. Lennox gave Fidelia a penny for a peppermint as a treat, and sent her off with a cart to carry the raisins. When Fidelia failed to return home by the expected time, the women became nervous. Aunt Maria decided she would set out to look for Fidelia. Lennox and Cynthy returned in the buggy. When they found out that Fidelia was lost, they set out in the buggy to search for her, picking up Aunt Maria midway. When the party reached Ms. At the end of the story, Fidelia was given cookies and milk from Mrs. As the party was about to leave, Fidelia cried for her peppermint candy. Subsequently, she received an assortment of candies. You can help by adding to it. One day she, put on her best dress and set out to visit her friend, Jane Baxter. Before Ann left, her grandmother gave her embroidered green silk bag to Ann to carry patchwork in. Ann realized that sewing four squares of patchwork and taking tea with Jane would leave her with less than enough time to play with Jane. Eventually, Ann settled down to sew her patchwork and panicked because it was gone. Baxter sent Ann and Jane to look for the patchwork, but along the way, Ann Lizy climbed a wall and ended up tearing her best dress. That night, after Ann returned home, her grandmother scolded her. Ann eased her conscience by confessing she had lost her patchwork on purpose. Later on, grandmother took her friend, Mrs. White, and Ann to visit the parsonage. Sally and her family happened to be visiting too. Sally was asked to show Ann Lizy her patchwork. Jennings take back the handkerchief and embroidered bag. In response, Ann confessed that she had lost the patchwork on purpose because she did not want to sew. On their way home, grandmother realizes Ann had learned her lesson. The Princess confessed her status as a Persian Princess traveling under the disguise of a cat in order to rescue her brother, who has been transformed into a Maltese cat. She then asked what Dorothy desired the most. Dorothy answered that she wished to provide a cushioned chair and a window for her grandmother. From the portmanteau, the princess pulled out a robe for Dorothy to exchange for her freedom from the Dame. The next day Dorothy obtained her freedom and set out with the princess. Eventually, Dorothy was able to support her grandmother, and the princess set off on her travels again. Awhile later, Dorothy went into the city to deliver cushions. At the house she was making the delivery to, she encounters the princess and her brother in the form of two cats. Dorothy learns that they are in the care of two older women, and the princess shares that her brother is under a spell that can only be broken if one of the women chases him out with a broom. However, the Princess states that this seems unlikely to happen because the ladies are quite kind to them. Before Dorothy and the princess parted, the princess wished her a happy life. Dorothy eventually marries the boy next door. One day, during recess at school, some girls and Earl Munroe, the handsome son of the wealthiest man in town, trick Jenny Brown into believing the idea that Christmas presents are grown on Christmas trees. They told her that if she climbed the Franklin Mountain past her house,

she could find the Christmas trees and Christmas presents. Jenny believed the other children headed towards the mountain after school. When Earl heard this, he sobbed and confessed that he had tricked Jenny into believing presents grew on trees. Munroe raised an alarm and organized a search party to look for Jenny. In the meantime, Earl decided to give away his Christmas tree and presents to Jenny, transporting them by sled. Earl suggests that Maud give her things to Jenny too, and Maud overcomes her reluctance, contributing food and clothes. The next day, some searchers met an old woodcutter, who said that he had found Jenny crying on the mountain and had taken her home, but that the storm had prohibited him from letting the searchers know. When Jenny returned home, she was met with love and with presents. At recess, Sarah displays her doll to many other admiring children. One of the older boys, Joe West, comes over, asking to hold the doll. Sarah is initially reluctant to let him hold the doll but she ultimately relents. When Joe gets the doll, he makes fun of Sarah and refuses to return the doll. He takes it with him and runs home. She calls out to Joe but he ignores her, heading towards the house. Sarah then sits by the roadside and cries as a remorseful Joe watches her through the window from his house. A packet containing a china doll was left for her. Unknown to Sarah, Joe had worked for three months to buy the doll. Years later, Joe and Sarah laugh about the story. His domineering grandfather refuses to let the puppy stay because his own seven-toed cat, Seventoes is afraid of dogs. When he arrived home, he saw Seventoes sitting on the ledge of the well. In his anger, he shoved Seventoes into the well. Benjamin watched Seventoes disappear under the water and was shocked when he realizes what he had done. Remorseful, he runs into the house and confesses to his grandfather and his mother that he had killed Seventoes. Grandfather sent mother to fish the cat out of the well, but before she could do it, Seventoes walked into the house, unhurt, because his extra toes had enabled him to climb up the well. Benjamin sobbed with relief and expresses his remorse. That night, he fed Seventoes and vowed that he would behave well in the future. Due to the amount of children, clothing often ran out in the family. One Sunday, Mirandy cried because she had to attend the meetings without shoes. In response, her mother said that she could pick berries during berry season and earn her shoes herself. Towards the end of July, Mirandy set out to pick berries with her siblings. Bringing her younger brother, baby Jonathan, along because Mirandy was left in charge of him. In order to take her brother back, Mirandy left her bucket. The siblings decided that the Captain had taken the bucket, so they knocked on his door in attempt to retrieve the bucket. No one answered, and eventually, all of the siblings decided to leave except Mirandy, who was determined to stay until she got her bucket. At two, the Captain opened his door and told her that in order to retrieve her bucket, she had to settle with him in his house. She entered his house and he commanded her to eat the whole bowl of berries, which she suspiciously did. The captain then proceeded to ask why she stole his berries. She responded that she wanted to earn her shoes. He admonished her, mentioning soldiers having to go barefoot at Valley Forge. Eventually, he warns her not to steal his berries again, and then brings her a pair of shoes. Whitman cooking dinner with her daughter Ruth. Whitman is worried that the parsnip stew she is cooking would not be enough to feed her husband, children and brothers Caleb and Silas. When the stew was almost done, the Wigginses, Mrs. Their arrival without warning angered Ruth, who knew that there was not enough stew. Ruth complained to her mother that she thought the Wigginses actions were rude. In response, mother entrusted Ruth to add salt to the stew. After adding the salt, Ruth left for school without taking any dinner.

Chapter 6 : Artificial Christmas Trees | Balsam Hill

Besides selecting a Christmas tree, visitors can enjoy a free hay wagon ride or just spend time sipping hot chocolate and roasting s'mores around the outdoor fireplace. Loyd's daughter and assistant manager, Haley Frazier, grew up spending a lot of time on the farm.

The Yule Log The History of Christmas Trees The evergreen fir tree has traditionally been used to celebrate winter festivals pagan and Christian for thousands of years. Pagans used branches of it to decorate their homes during the winter solstice, as it made them think of the spring to come. The Romans used Fir Trees to decorate their temples at the festival of Saturnalia. Christians use it as a sign of everlasting life with God. Nobody is really sure when Fir trees were first used as Christmas trees. It probably began about years ago in Northern Europe. Other early Christmas Trees, across many parts of northern Europe, were cherry or hawthorn plants or a branch of the plant that were put into pots and brought inside so they would hopefully flower at Christmas time. Sometimes they were carried around from house to house, rather than being displayed in a home. The Paradise Tree represented the Garden of Eden. It was often paraded around the town before the play started, as a way of advertising the play. The plays told Bible stories to people who could not read. The first documented use of a tree at Christmas and New Year celebrations is argued between the cities of Tallinn in Estonia and Riga in Latvia! Both claim that they had the first trees; Tallinn in and Riga in Little is known about either tree apart from that they were put in the town square, were danced around by the Brotherhood of Blackheads and were then set on fire. This is like the custom of the Yule Log. You can find out more about the Riga Tree from this website: The man is dressed a bishop, possibly representing St. It is described as a tree decorated with "apples, nuts, dates, pretzels and paper flowers". The first person to bring a Christmas Tree into a house, in the way we know it today, may have been the 16th century German preacher Martin Luther. A story is told that, one night before Christmas, he was walking through the forest and looked up to see the stars shining through the tree branches. It was so beautiful, that he went home and told his children that it reminded him of Jesus, who left the stars of heaven to come to earth at Christmas. The Riga tree originally took place a few decades earlier. The custom of having Christmas trees could well have travelled along the Baltic sea, from Latvia to Germany. In the s and s, the countries which are now Germany and Latvia were then part of two larger empires which were neighbors. Another story says that St. Boniface of Crediton a village in Devon, UK left England and traveled to Germany to preach to the pagan German tribes and convert them to Christianity. He is said to have come across a group of pagans about to sacrifice a young boy while worshipping an oak tree. In anger, and to stop the sacrifice, St. Boniface is said to have cut down the oak tree and, to his amazement, a young fir tree sprang up from the roots of the oak tree. Boniface took this as a sign of the Christian faith and his followers decorated the tree with candles so that St. Boniface could preach to the pagans at night. There is another legend, from Germany, about how the Christmas Tree came into being, it goes: Once on a cold Christmas Eve night, a forester and his family were in their cottage gathered round the fire to keep warm. Suddenly there was a knock on the door. When the forester opened the door, he found a poor little boy standing on the door step, lost and alone. The forester welcomed him into his house and the family fed and washed him and put him to bed in the youngest sons own bed he had to share with his brother that night! The next morning, Christmas Morning, the family were woken up by a choir of angels, and the poor little boy had turned into Jesus, the Christ Child. The Christ Child went into the front garden of the cottage and broke a branch off a Fir tree and gave it to the family as a present to say thank you for looking after him. So ever since them, people have remembered that night by bringing a Christmas Tree into their homes! In Germany, the first Christmas Trees were decorated with edible things, such as gingerbread and gold covered apples. Then glass makers made special small ornaments similar to some of the decorations used today. In an unknown German wrote: The first Christmas Trees came to Britain sometime in the s. In Victorian times, the tree would have been decorated with candles to represent stars. In many parts of Europe, candles are still used to decorate Christmas trees. Tinsel and The Legend of the Christmas Spider Tinsel was also created in Germany, were it was originally made from thin strips of beaten silver. There are also folk stories about how tinsel was created -

by The Christmas Spider! These tales seem to have started in Eastern Germany or Ukraine but are also told in parts of Finland and Scandinavia. When the children go to sleep on Christmas Eve a spider covers the tree in cobwebs. Then on Christmas morning the cobwebs are magically turned into silver and gold strands which decorate the tree! In , the famous inventor Thomas Edison put some of his new electric light bulbs around his office. And in Edward Johnson, who was a colleague of Edison, hand-strung 80 red, white and blue bulbs together and put them on his tree in his New York apartment there were two additional strings of 28 lights mounted from the ceiling! In the Edison company published a brochure offering lighting services for Christmas. In another Edison advert offered bulbs which you could rent, along with their lighting system, for use over Christmas! There are records in a diary from where settlers in Montana used electric lights on a tree. Electric tree lights first became widely known in the USA in when President Grover Cleveland has the tree in the White House decorated with lights as his young daughters liked them! Another claim to the first widespread sale of strings of lights comes from Ralph Morris, an American telephonist. In , he used telephone wire to string together small bulbs from a telephone exchange and decorated a table top tree with them. Leavitt Morris, the son of Ralph, wrote an article in for the Christian Science Monitor, about his father inventing Christmas Tree lights, as he was un-aware of the Edison lights. In a hospital in Chicago burned down because of candles on a Christmas Tree. In insurance companies in the USA tried to get a law made that would ban candles from being used on Christmas Trees because of the many fires they had caused. However, people still used candles to light Christmas Trees and there were more fires. His family came from Spain and made novelty wicker bird cages that lit up. Albert thought of using the lights in long strings and also suggested painting the bulbs bright colors like red and green. Many towns and villages have their own Christmas Trees. She set the record on 19th December on the set of Guinness World Records: Die GroBten Weltrekorde in Germany. Artificial Christmas Trees really started becoming popular in the early 20th century. In many countries, different trees are used as Christmas trees.

Chapter 7 : History of the Christmas tree

But one neighbor of Latvia is up in arms about the plans. It is a white Christmas in both Estonia and Latvia: with fluffy snow, fairy lights and spiced wine - all the ingredients of the proper Christmas spirit.

Christmas trees Christmas trees were the original farm product of Redrock Farm. From the original Scotch pines we have matured to growing primarily balsam fir, Canaan fir, Fraser fir, with some white spruce, blue spruces, Concolor fir, and white pines mixed in. We also have white cedar for decorating wreaths and other goodies that Stephanie makes. Christmas trees in winter Listed below are more detailed descriptions of the Christmas trees and seedlings we grow on Redrock Farm. Balsams are a small to medium sized, aromatic evergreen native to the cold climates of the northern US and Canada. Balsam firs prefer moist, well drained, acidic soils with pH 4. They are generally found in cool moist climates where it rains 30 or more inches per year. Hardiness zones are 3 through 6. Mature heights range from 45 to 75 feet with 20 to 25 feet of crown width. They have a shallow, spreading root system. If you are going to start growing a few Christmas trees, they are the choice! Canaan Fir "Abies balsamea var. They are native to isolated pockets in the mountains of West Virginia and Virginia and are closely related to both balsam and Fraser fir. They are a medium sized fir with a relatively dense, pyramidal shape and narrow spire-like top. Color is shiny dark green to bluish green. Canaan firs have been almost exclusively developed as Christmas trees but would make good landscape trees as well. They will tolerate soils with less than perfect drainage, unlike Fraser firs, but still prefer moist, acidic soils with pH 4. They will tolerate poorly drained soil, but grow very slowly. Hardiness zones 3 to 8. Mature heights range from 40 to 55 feet with the crown width of 20 to 25 feet. Color is shiny deep green to almost blue. They are pyramidal with a spire like top. They require full sun and must have well drained, acidic pH 3. They will not tolerate wet soil. Hardiness zones 4 to 7. Fraser firs can reach 60 to 75 feet in height with crown spread of 30 to 40 feet under the right conditions. Concolor fir "Abies concolor Concolor firs, also known as white firs, are native to the mountains of the southwestern US into northern Mexico. They are pyramidal in shape. When crushed, they smell like tangerines, giving the whole tree a citrusy smell. Concolors are a widely used landscape tree and Christmas tree, especially in urban settings. They prefer full sun and moist, well drained, acidic, sandy loam soils. Concolor firs tolerate drier conditions and drought better than other firs. Crown height of a mature tree can reach 50 feet with a width of around 20 feet. If you live in a drier area, this might be the fir to try. Blue Spruce Colorado Blue Spruce "Picea pungens The blue spruce is a broad, dense, pyramidal tree with stiff branches horizontal to the ground. This popular landscape tree is native to the intermountain states of the western United States. Other uses include windbreaks, hedgerows, nesting sites, wood for kindling, and Christmas trees. Blue spruce Christmas tree Blue spruces grow best in full sun in moist well-drained loams with soil pH 6. Its hardiness zones are 3 through 8. It is the most drought tolerant of all the spruces. Crown height is generally 30 to 65 feet, crown width 15 to 25 feet. The root system is shallow and wide spreading. The blue spruce is probably the most adaptable and easy to grow seedling that we sell. Norway Spruce "Picea abies The Norway spruce is a broad, dense, pyramidal tree with stiff branches that droop below horizontal to the ground as it grows. It has dark green needles about one inch long that are four sided appear round. Another popular landscape, wind break, screen tree, or wildlife habitat, it is native to the European continent and is the most important conifer there. Norway spruces are the fastest growing of all spruces. It prefers full sun and loamy soils with pH 5. Its hardiness zones are 3 through 7. Crown height is generally 40 to 60 feet, with a width of 25 to 30 feet. Its roots grow deep and spread wide, making it very wind tolerant. White spruce "Picea glauca White spruces are a straight, tall evergreen native to a wide range in North America. They are generally a silvery green and feel round. They are also used extensively as lumber and kindling wood, especially in Canada where they grow throughout. White spruces prefer full sun, but can tolerate some shade. They grow best in moist, well drained acidic soils with pH 4. White spruces have a medium growth rate. Their hardiness zones are 2 through 6. Mature crown height is 40 to 60 feet with a crown width of 10 to 20 feet. White spruces would grow well anywhere where the winters are cold and long. White Pine "Pinus strobus White pines eastern or northern are a hardy and very valuable tree that grows naturally

in a large portion of the northeastern US and Canada. They have clustered, thin, blue-green needles that are 2 to 5 inches long. They have a more rounded, pagoda shape oval pyramidal. They lose needles from year to year. They are a valuable lumber tree, widely used as screens, and for wildlife habitat. Some like them as Christmas trees. They grow best in full sun but can tolerate partial shade. They prefer moist, well-drained acidic soils, but can tolerate wetness or dry ridges. White pines are more adaptable to many situations than most of the seedlings we sell. White cedar leaves White Cedar " Thuja occidentalis White cedar, northern or eastern white cedar or Arborvitae. They are a smaller sized evergreen with a dense, conical crown. Leaves are green and flat, scale like and closely overlapping. They are native to southeastern Canada and the northeastern US. They are widely used for landscaping, especially hedges and hedgerows. Fence posts, fine lumber, and oil from the leaves are other uses. They are more adaptable to wet conditions than many other evergreens, often having some roots in a swamp and some roots in a dry location. White cedar grows best in full sun but can tolerate shade. Soil pH should generally be 5. Hardiness zones 2 to 9. They generally grow to about 40 feet tall and 20 feet wide at maturity, but tolerate shaping well.

Chapter 8 : How to Plant a Living Christmas Tree (with Pictures) - wikiHow

The tallest artificial Christmas tree was 52m (ft) high and was covered in green PVC leaves!. It was called the 'Peace Tree' and was designed by Grupo Sonae Distribui o Brasil and was displayed in Moinhos de Vento Park, Porto Alegre, Brazil from 1st December until 6th January

It may require more muscle to cart a live tree into the house, but it will be fresher and more fragrant than a cut one  not to mention longer-lasting and more fragrant, once planted outside. But as an adult, the tradition held less allure. But then she had a son and felt guilty about denying him such memories of his own. So Claire and her husband devised a new seasonal strategy: They buy a live tree to trim indoors, and after the ornaments are packed away they plant it on their three acres on Bainbridge Island, Washington. This way, we are helping re-tree the property. And in later years, the planted tree can extend holiday cheer outdoors when strung with all-weather lights or edible garlands for birds to nibble. Live trees do come with limitations, though. They can cost twice as much as cut ones. It requires more muscle to get in and out of the house  a 6-footer with its root ball can weigh up to pounds. Read on to learn what to do now, come Christmas, and after the holidays with help from Roger Cook. To figure out how big a tree you can handle, measure the ceiling height in the room where you plan to put it. Factor in the size of the tree plus its root ball, as well as the height of an ornament on top and whether the container sits off the ground. To ensure that your planted tree thrives long past the holidays, choose a species suited to your climate. Your local nursery will give the best advice, since growing conditions vary even within regions. Native species in other regions include Douglas fir in the Northwest, Arizona cypress in the Southwest, and Virginia pine down South. Compare conifers with a natural shape with denser ones that are pruned to look like the Christmas trees you see on greeting cards. Look at the tree from several angles to check for bald spots and crooks in the trunk. Then, run your hands over the needles. But if those on the ends of the branches fall off, pick another tree. In the frozen Northeast, Roger shovels the soil onto a tarp and backfills the hole with leaves to insulate its earthen walls. Pick a Planting Spot A well-sited tree can provide privacy from close-by neighbors or help screen against winter winds. Roger chose a spot near the driveway for this tree so it could help shield views of parked cars from the front entry. A white spruce, for example, can grow to more than 90 feet, shading nearby shrubs and flowers. Any deeper, and loosened soil can compact and cause the tree to sink. The diameter of the hole should be about 4 feet, or at least twice that of the ball, so roots can easily spread. He then covers the hole with the soil-topped tarp, and lays a second tarp on top. More insulating  and tarp-hiding  leaves cap the "soil sandwich. Transport Your Tree When you pick up the tree from the nursery, grab the nylon strings tied around the burlap-wrapped root ball, or hold on to the ball itself to hoist it into your vehicle. To keep branches from breaking on the road, wrap them loosely with twine. Once the tree is safely on the ground outside the house, remove the protective covering and shake the branches so loose needles fall. Then spray the tree with a natural antidesiccant, such as one made from pine resin, to minimize moisture loss through the needles. To waterproof the wooden crate used here, Roger stapled two layers of thick plastic sheeting inside. Then, with the root ball still wrapped in burlap, he set the tree in the crate and filled gaps around the ball with wood chips to level and steady the tree. Cart it Inside To move the potted tree, pivot and scoot the container onto a hand truck. Once inside the house, Roger suggests switching to an improvised sled: The pile slides easily over hardwood floors, prevents scratches, and can be left in place under the container. Position the tree near a window, where it will stay cooler, and away from heat sources like a fireplace or HVAC vents. The roots must stay moist but should not be in standing water. When in doubt, poke a finger into the soil to test for moisture. In cold-weather regions, transition the tree to the outdoors by moving it into a cool shed or garage for a day or two to give it time to acclimate. In balmy climates, you can move the tree directly to the hole. Plant it With the tree in the hole, remove the nylon strings that truss its root ball. Then cut away as much of the surrounding burlap as you can to prevent the material from wicking up water and causing the roots to dry out. Fill in around the base using the stockpiled soil until earth covers the trunk up to the same point it did originally in the field. Water well, spray the needles once more with antidesiccant, and cap the soil with a 3-inch layer of insulating mulch. To

help the tree establish itself in its new environs, Roger recommends regular irrigation over the next few years during the growing seasons, adding, "With just a little follow-up care, your tree should last for many Christmases to come.

Chapter 9 : So, Where Do Christmas Trees Come From? | HuffPost

One of the big attractions of Christmas tree farming is the small amount of work it takes. Little is required for the first four years, then an annual pruning helps the trees bush out for the fuller shape that buyers prefer.

The first decorated Christmas tree was in Riga, Latvia in 1510. The first printed reference to Christmas trees appeared in Germany in 1531. Besides evergreens, other types of trees such as cherry and hawthorns were used as Christmas trees in the past. Using small candles to light a Christmas tree dates back to the middle of the 17th century. Christmas tree lights were first mass-produced in 1880. In 1882, large stores started to erect big illuminated Christmas trees. The tradition of an official Chicago Christmas tree was initiated in 1882 when one was first lit by Mayor Carter H. Harrison in Grant Park. The official Christmas tree tradition at Rockefeller Center began in 1931. Since the tree has been topped with a pound Swarovski Crystal star. Every year since 1917, the people of Oslo, Norway have given a Christmas tree to the city of Westminster, England. Since 1906, the Province of Nova Scotia has presented the Boston Christmas tree to the people of Boston, in gratitude for the relief supplies received from the citizens of Boston after a ship exploded in following a collision in the Halifax, Nova Scotia Harbor. Part of the city was leveled, killing and injuring thousands. Teddy Roosevelt banned the Christmas tree from the White House for environmental reasons. Truman agreed to stay at the White House for Christmas in 1945, and personally lit the tree. In 1963, the National Christmas Tree was not lit until December 22nd, because of a national day period of mourning following the assassination of President Kennedy. In 1979, the National Christmas Tree was not lit except for the top ornament. This was done to honor the American hostages in Iran. Today most real Christmas trees are grown on farms as sustainable crops like corn or pumpkins. To ensure enough trees for harvest, growers plant one to three seedlings for every tree harvested. In 2010, 46 million Christmas tree seedlings were planted by U.S. More than 2,000 trees are usually planted per acre. On average 1%, of these trees will survive. In the northern part of the country, perhaps trees will remain. Almost all trees require shearing to attain the Christmas tree shape. At six to seven feet, trees are ready for harvest. It takes six to ten years of fighting heavy rain, wind, hail and drought to get a mature tree. Most Christmas trees are cut weeks before they get to a retail outlet. It is important to keep them watered thoroughly when they reach your home. In the first week, a Christmas tree in your home will consume as much as a quart of water per day. Artificial Christmas trees were developed in Germany during the 19th century and later became popular in the United States. These "trees" were made using goose feathers that were dyed green and attached to wire branches. The wire branches were then wrapped around a central dowel rod that acted as the trunk. In the U.S. The company used the same machinery that it used to manufacture toilet brushes, but they were dyed green. Artificial Christmas trees made largely from aluminum were manufactured in the United States, first in Chicago in 1900. Today, most artificial Christmas trees are made from PVC plastic. PVC trees are fire-retardant but not fire-resistant. Eighty percent of artificial trees worldwide are manufactured in China. From a fishing schooner called the "Christmas Ship" would tie up at the Clark Street Bridge in Chicago and sell spruce trees from Michigan to Chicagoans. An estimated 100 million real Christmas trees are sold via e-commerce or catalogue and shipped mail order. The most popular Christmas trees are: Scotch pine, Douglas fir, noble fir, Fraser fir, balsam fir, Virginia pine and white pine. Christmas trees are baled to protect the branches from damage during shipping. Helicopters help to lift harvested Christmas trees from farms. There are approximately 10 million Christmas trees growing on U.S. Approximately 100,000 people are employed full or part-time in the Christmas tree industry. Christmas trees are grown and harvested in all 50 states. Michigan ranks third among all states in the production of real Christmas trees, but grows a larger variety of Christmas trees than any other state. In the United States, there are more than 4,000 Christmas tree recycling programs. Recycled real Christmas trees have been used to make sand and soil erosion barriers and been placed in ponds for fish shelter. Growing Christmas trees provides a habitat for wildlife. Christmas trees can remove dust and pollen from the air. Cook County, IL uses old Christmas trees to rebuild housing structures for natural wildlife that has been destroyed through development. Artificial trees will last for six years in your home, but for centuries in a landfill. An acre of Christmas trees provides the daily oxygen requirements of 18 people. You should not burn your Christmas

tree in the fireplace; it can contribute to creosote buildup. Live Christmas trees are involved in less than one-tenth of one percent of residential fires, and mostly when ignited by some external ignition sources. The major factors involved in Christmas tree fires are electrical problems, decorative lights, candles, and a heat source too close to the tree. In the government concluded that Christmas tree tinsel made of lead was a health risk and convinced manufactures to voluntarily stop producing lead tinsel. It is now made of plastic.