



# The Environmental Choice

## The Real Christmas Tree vs. The Fake Christmas Tree



### Real Christmas Trees

- Real Christmas trees are plantation grown on American family farms, making an important economic contribution to many rural communities in the United States.
- Real Christmas trees absorb carbon dioxide and other harmful "greenhouse" gases and release fresh oxygen into the air. A Real Christmas tree has a fragrance beyond compare.
- One acre of Christmas trees provides the daily oxygen requirement for 18 people. There are about 500,000 acres of Christmas trees in the United States which collectively provide oxygen for 9 million people daily. Young, fast-growing trees like Christmas trees release more oxygen than mature forest trees.
- For every Real Christmas tree harvested, another one is planted in its place to ensure a steady supply year after year. Christmas tree fields support turkey, quail, songbirds, rabbits and deer.
- When planted outside after the Holidays, balled and burlaped Real Christmas Trees temper winds, suppress loud sounds, filter dust, moderate temperature, and dissipate odors.
- Real Christmas trees are an all-American renewable, recyclable resource. After the holidays, Real trees are chipped into biodegradable mulch, which replenishes soil in landscapes, parks, and schools. Most communities offer recycling programs.
- Recycled Real Christmas trees are also used as wind and water barriers at beaches and river beds to fight sand and soil erosion. They protect our water supplies, and provide refuge for wildlife. When sunk in ponds, they provide excellent refuge and feeding areas for fish.
- Real Christmas trees can be used as a feeding station and winter shelter for songbirds in your yard.
- Some consumers are allergic to dust that accumulates on surfaces of Real trees grown outside. You can wash most allergens off by spraying the tree with water before bringing it inside.
- The safest Christmas tree is a fresh, well-watered tree. A Real tree has never started a fire. Faulty Christmas lights, candles, and fireplaces can start tree fires.

### Fake Christmas Trees

- Fake Christmas trees are made in Korea, Taiwan, or China. Importing artificial trees contributes to the US trade deficit.
- Fake Christmas trees are made from non-renewable plastics. The manufacture of petroleum-based plastics use up natural resources. Once used, they are gone forever.
- Furthermore, the manufacture of both plastic and metal components in the tree consume energy and create pollution.
- The average use of a Fake Christmas tree is only 6 or 7 years. Eventually, they all go to the landfill as garbage.
- Fake Christmas trees are not biodegradable. The plastics and metals that they contain, including lead, will remain in our landfills for centuries.
- Three Asian wood-boring beetle species have been imported to America on the wooden trunks of Fake trees. Undetected, these insects could attack native forest trees and lumber.
- Some consumers have suffered an allergic reaction to materials in their Fake tree.
- When a Fake Christmas tree catches fire, it releases dangerous toxic fumes into the home.



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**For additional copies of this flyer go to: [www.highcountrytreeandwreath.com](http://www.highcountrytreeandwreath.com)**

*Information Provided by the North Carolina Christmas Tree Association*

**Choose a Real Christmas Tree — The Environmental & Traditional Choice**