

While they're growing, **Real Christmas Trees support life** by absorbing carbon dioxide and other gases and emitting fresh oxygen.

The farms that grow **Christmas Trees stabilize soil, protect water supplies and provide refuge for wildlife** while creating scenic green belts. Often, Christmas Trees are grown on soil that doesn't support other crops.



### **Real Christmas Trees Are Renewable.**

Real Christmas Trees are **grown on farms just like any other crop**. To ensure a constant supply, Christmas Tree **growers plant one to three new seedlings** for every tree they harvest.

On the other hand, **artificial trees are a petroleum-based product** manufactured primarily in Chinese factories. The average family uses an artificial tree for only six to nine years before throwing it away, where **it will remain in a landfill for centuries after disposal**.

Trees. "Always go real," says Seo. "A fake tree is petroleum based. It's not biodegradable."

- There are close to 350 million Real Christmas Trees currently growing on Christmas Tree farms in the U.S. alone, all planted by farmers.
- North American Real Christmas Trees are grown in all 50 states and Canada. Eighty percent (80%) of artificial trees worldwide are manufactured in China, according to the U.S. Commerce Department.
- Real Trees are a renewable, recyclable resource. Artificial trees contain non-biodegradable plastics and possible metal toxins such as lead.
- There are more than 4,000 local Christmas Tree recycling programs throughout the United States.
- For every Real Christmas Tree harvested, 1 to 3 seedlings are planted the following spring.
- There are about 350,000 acres in production for growing Christmas Trees in the U.S.; much of it preserving green space.
- There are close to 15,000 farms growing Christmas Trees in the U.S., and over 100,000 people are employed full or part-time in the industry.
- It can take as many as 15 years to grow a tree of typical height (6 - 7 feet) or as little as 4 years, but the average growing time is 7 years.
- The top Christmas Tree producing states are Oregon, North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Washington. (See a [complete list](#) of all 50 states ranked by several variables.)



□ The most common Christmas Tree species are: balsam fir, Douglas-fir, Fraser fir, noble fir, Scotch pine, Virginia pine and white pine.

*Most fake trees (85%) in the U.S. are imported from China. Almost 10 Million fake trees were sold worldwide in 2003. The U.S. Commerce Dept. tracks the [Import of Fake Trees](#)*

*Most artificial Christmas trees are made of metals and plastics. The plastic material, typically PVC, can be a potential source of hazardous lead. [Read a warning about them](#) from the Children's Health Environmental Coalition.*

*In 2004, the Farmington Hills Fire Department in metropolitan Detroit conducted a test of how real and artificial trees react in a house fire. The artificial tree, which was advertised as “flame retardant,” did resist the flames for an amount of time, but then was engulfed in flames and projected significant heat and [toxic smoke, containing hydrogen chloride gas and dioxin.](#)*