

Christmas Tree Selection Guide



	Fraser Fir	Balsam Fir	Canaan Fir	Concolor Fir
Appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-1 1/2" long short, flat and pliable needle • Very deep, lustrous green with silver-blue stripes on the underside • Needle has rounded tips and is flat in the cross section • Needles stand vertical and crowd on the upper side of twigs • Excellent needle retention and may last up to 4 weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-1 1/2" long short, flat and pliable needle • Deep green with white stripes on the underside • Needle has rounded tips and is flat in the cross section • Needles lie flat on the upper sides of twigs • Moderate needle retention and prone to some needle loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar appearance to Balsam • Dark green to bluish green with silvery bands on the underside of the needles • Good needle retention with the proper care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ¾ -1 ½ inch long needle and are spreading and uncrowded on the branch • Foliage color is lustrous dark green to bluish green with silvery stomatic bands on the underside of the needles • Good needle retention
Texture and Aroma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium texture • Mild, sweet scent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very soft texture • Strong, sweet scent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very soft texture • Strong, sweet scent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pleasant scent usually described as citrus-or orange-like
Propagation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefers a moist, well-drained acidic loam, ph 5.5-5.8 • Slow growing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefers acidic, moist to damp soils • Tolerates shade and can grow in a variety of soils • Moderate growth rate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefers moist, cool, well-drained loams and clay • Moderate growth rate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefers moist, well-drained soils • Moderate growth rate
Special Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most popular Christmas tree in Ontario and Western Canada • Sturdy branches provide great support for moderately heavy ornaments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very popular tree in Eastern Ontario • Branches provide adequate support for moderately heavy ornaments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to grow in areas not well suited to other native firs • Later bud break than Balsam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More adaptable than most firs with higher heat and drought tolerance

	Scotch Pine	White Pine	White Spruce or Colorado Spruce
Colour and Needle	2-3" Long with a stiff twisted needle. Colour varies from yellow green to blue-green.	3-5" long with a soft and flexible needle. Colour is blue-green.	1 - 1-1/2" long with a short stiff and prickly needle Medium green, waxy coating Needles are pointed at tips
Needle Retention	Superior needle retention	Excellent needle retention	Not a durable tree, prone to some needle loss if not properly cared for
Texture	Medium	Very soft	Medium
Aroma	Mild scent	Distinct scent	Mild scent
Farmed	This tree is widely grown in Central North America.	This tree is widely grown in Central North America.	Grown in central North America
Popularity	Old fashioned variety	Popular in Western Canada	Popular spruce variety for Christmas tree
Special Note	Sturdy branches provide adequate support for moderately heavy ornaments	Flexible branches do not support heavy ornaments	Sturdy branches provide adequate support for moderately heavy ornaments