



CHRISTMAS TREE TIPS

Picking the right one, and keeping it green!

*By Chad Reese
Reese Family Tree Farm - Calhoun, TN*

Picking the "Right" Tree

Going out to a tree farm to choose and cut your own tree can be a great holiday tradition for your family. Think "Charlie Brown Christmas" or the classic "Christmas Vacation" with Chevy Chase.

Chad Reese, of Reese Family Tree Farm in Calhoun, TN, gives his recommendations:

Types of Trees:

- **Leland Cypress:** very popular, best if shaped by the tree farmer as it grows.
- **Carolina Sapphire (or "California Christmas Tree"):** admired for their unique fragrance and lighter color (a blue-ish tone). These trees look "fatter," as many people describe them as a "Hershey Kiss."
- **Blue Ice:** distinguished by its "blue diamond" look in the light, it carries a tangerine-like fragrance.

The Reeses have these "farm-grown" trees available, in addition to pre-cut Frazier Firs (#1 grade) from North Carolina. Reese Family Tree Farm is in Polk County at 188 Leamon Drive, Calhoun, TN 37309 (About half-way between Athens & Cleveland, off Hwy 163). Phone: (423) 336-9757; Open through Dec. 22nd. Hours: Sat.-Sun.: 8 am to 7 pm; Mon.-Fri., 12 noon to 6 pm.

Keeping Trees Fresh

Here's how to maintain your tree's fragrance and prevent needle loss:

- Use a tree-stand that holds at least one gallon of water. And keep your tree well watered with several quarts a day - check the water level a couple of times every day.
- Don't let the water level fall below the base of the tree or the cut end may seal over, preventing further water intake. Don't add anything to the water – *just more of it.*

Chad is a customer of Athens Federal Community Bank, which provides home mortgages, refinancing and all your financial needs in McMinn, Bradley, Meigs, Monroe, and Polk counties.



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