



STATESMAN JOURNAL FILE

David White, of Salem, gets help with the Christmas tree he cut down with his sons at Palmer's Tree Farm in Salem.

# Keeping it real Where to find, how to care for fresh Christmas trees

**KYM POKORNY**  
SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN JOURNAL

After Thanksgiving, it's time to get out the lights, the garlands, the baubles and balls, but don't get ahead of yourself.

"Know how to choose a fresh tree and how to keep it that way or you'll be disappointed," said Chal Landgren, a Christmas tree specialist with Oregon State University's Extension Service. "It's also not safe to have a dried-out tree in the house, so it's doubly important to know what to do."

A lot of information swirls around the issue of how to purchase and preserve a Christmas tree once you get it home, some of it misleading. Landgren helps you get it right with answers to the most pressing questions.

**Q: How do I know a tree is fresh when I purchase it?**

**A:** Choose a tree that looks green and healthy with needles that snap like a fresh carrot. Shake it a few times to get rid of old needles. When you're home, place the tree in water if you do not plan to put it up immediately. Choose a large, water-filled stand to display the tree indoors. Check the water level daily; trees will be very thirsty the first few days inside a heated home.

**Q: Do I need to re-cut the stem after I get my tree home?**

**A:** Yes, if more than 24 hours has elapsed since the stem was last cut. The fresh cut helps water uptake, and the sooner you can get the tree into water, the fresher it will be.



MOLLY J. SMITH/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Rows of Nordmann firs are ready to be cut at the Skyline Christmas Tree Farm. Grass walkways are grown in between different lots of trees at the farm to help with soil erosion.

See **TREES**, Page 3B

## Local Christmas tree farms

Area tree farms open for the season for the most part Nov. 25 or Nov. 26.

### Northeast Salem

#### Bellman U-Me Cut Tree Farm

**To get there:** 5840 Basil St. NE, Salem; go east on Center Street, half mile past Cordon Road, right on Hampden Lane and left on Basil Street. Follow "U-Me Cut" signs.

**Open:** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 25 weekends through Dec. 11; weekdays by appointment

**Trees:** Nordmann, grand, balsam, Douglas-firs, \$10 to \$22

**Extras:** Hauling, cutting and loading assistance, candy canes and hand saws; cut trees available

**Contact:** 503-362-0842

### East Salem

#### Tamanhous Tillikum Christmas Tree Farm

**To get there:** 11805 State St., Salem; go east on State Street, located approximately 7 miles east of Cordon Road. From the Silverton or Sublimity areas, take Cascade Highway to State Street, approximately 1 mile west of Cascade Highway. Look for the sleigh sign and a tan fruit stand at the end of the driveway.

**Open:** 9 a.m. to dark daily Nov. 25 through Dec. 24

**Trees:** Nobles, \$25 any size U-cut; \$30 we cut

**Extras:** Wreaths (greens only), \$10 and \$15; decorated wreaths, \$20 and up; decorate your own wreath, \$15 and up (provided pre-made wreath and embellishments to choose from); free cookies and cider

**Contact:** 503-510-8257, Facebook.com/tamanhoustillikum

### Palmer's Tree Farm

**To get there:** 4716 Poinsettia St. NE, Salem; take 99E about 3 miles past Chemawa Road and turn right on Poinsettia Street; from Interstate 5, take Brooks Exit (Exit 263), then Brooklake Road east one mile to Brooks, turn right on Highway 99E and go about one mile to Poinsettia Street; from Keizer, head north on River Road N, take a right on Quinaby Road, then go to 99 E, turn right and you'll see signs.

**Open:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, Nov. 25 through Dec. 18

**Trees:** Noble, Nordmann, corkbark, Douglas, Fraser, grand and Turkish firs, Serbian and blue, green and Norway spruces; heights up to 13 feet. Trees start at \$15; tabletop trees start at \$6

**Extras:** Free hot chocolate and candy canes; wagon/train rides, a showroom with flocked trees, pre-cut trees, wreaths and stands for sale; carts for you-pick; family fun including a nativity and singing Christmas tree; plus employees will put on Davis Tree stands and provide cutting assistance and shaking and baling services. Voted best Christmas tree farm in the Mid-Willamette Valley.

**Contact:** 503-393-2762, palmerschristmastrees.com

### South Salem

#### Ballyntyne Tree Farm

**To get there:** 2556 Ballyntyne Road, Salem; go west on Kuebler Boulevard past Commercial Street and Liberty Road, turn left on Croisan Creek Road to Ballyntyne Road

**Open:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends, Nov. 26-Dec. 4

**Trees:** Noble, Douglas and grand firs up to 12 feet, \$30 any tree

**Extras:** Hot cocoa, saws, twine, baling and

bonfires; no credit or debit cards; dogs allowed

**Contact:** 855-447-6660

### Green Hill Farms

**To get there:** 6548 Liberty Road SE, Salem; go 11/2 miles south of the intersection of Kuebler Boulevard and Liberty Road

**Open:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays, Nov. 26 through Dec. 11

**Trees:** Douglas-firs and grand firs, \$15 or \$10 with military ID

**Extras:** Candy canes, cutting and loading assistance, holly and decorations for sale

**Contact:** 503-585-9032

### In Town Trees

**To get there:** 1640 Barnes Ave. SE, take Commercial south, left on Kuebler, right on Stroh, then straight ahead

**Open:** Noon to dark Fridays and 9 a.m. to dark Saturdays-Sundays, Nov. 26 through Dec. 11

**Trees:** Nordmanns and nobles up to 13 feet; prices start at \$20

**Extras:** Loading assistance and delivery to South Salem available at extra charge; you choose, we cut

**Contact:** 503-586-6722

### Schipporeit Christmas Tree Farm

**To get there:** 4455 27th Ave. SE, Salem, south on Interstate 5 to Exit 252, west a quarter-mile to 27th Avenue, north a quarter-mile to the farm; follow the signs

**Open:** Noon to 5 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays-Sundays, Nov. 25 through Dec. 24

**Trees:** Douglas, grand and noble firs. Douglas

and grands are \$25 up to 8 1/2 feet and nobles are \$45 up to 8 1/2 feet. Sizes up to 12 feet available for additional charge.

**Extras:** Cutting assistance, restrooms and saws

**Contact:** 503-378-1723

### Skyline Christmas Tree Farm

**To get there:** 7300 Skyline Road SE, Salem, from Interstate 5 take Kuebler west. Left on Skyline Road and follow the signs (two miles past Vitae Springs Road)

**Open:** 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fridays-Sundays Nov. 25 through Dec. 24

**Trees:** You-cut and pre-cut Noble, Nordmann, Douglas, Turkish and Grand firs. \$20 to \$40

**Extras:** Shaking and handsaws, hauling, cutting and baling on request. Also, complimentary hot beverages, cookies, firepit and gift shop

**Contact:** 503-399-8203

### Tree Kings

**To get there:** 7544 Jordan St. Salem; go east on Highway 22, take Joseph Street Exit, turn left on Joseph Street, left on 71st, right on Jordan

**Open:** 8 a.m. till dark daily, Nov. 25 through Dec. 20

**Trees:** Noble, Nordmann, Turkish, grand and Douglas-firs, ranging from 2 to 12 feet, starting at \$15

**Extras:** Free candy canes and hot chocolate, cutting assistance, baling, flocking and shaking, and fresh-cut trees, wreaths and tree stands for sale

**Contact:** (503) 881-8610

See **FARMS**, Page 3B