

FOR IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE

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NDSU-NORTH DAKOTA FOREST SERVICE
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A REAL CHRISTMAS TREE IS THE NATURAL CHOICE

Bottineau – Each holiday season, shoppers find themselves confronted with a difficult choice: celebrate with a real tree or an artificial tree. The best choice has always been the natural choice...a real Christmas tree!

Real Christmas trees, like all trees, provide critical benefits to the environment from the time they are planted, which plastic alternatives can never replicate. While they're growing, real Christmas trees support life by absorbing carbon dioxide and giving off fresh oxygen. The farms that grow Christmas trees stabilize soil, protect and clean water supplies, sequester carbon, and provide habitat for wildlife, while creating some beautiful green scenery. Often, Christmas trees are grown on soil that doesn't support other crops. Real trees can be reused and recycled after the holidays, check with your local department of public works for information.

Artificial trees are a petroleum-based product that consumes energy resources during fabrication. A burden to the environment, artificial trees aren't biodegradable, and will remain in landfills for years after disposal. The average life span of an artificial tree is only six years before it is thrown away.

Your real tree is fresh if the needles are green and flexible, and don't come off readily when you pull the branches through your fingers or bounce the tree on the ground. A visit to a local "retail lot" or "choose and cut" tree farm will ensure the freshest tree possible.

To keep it fresh, store your tree in a cool garage or shaded place after purchase until you are ready to bring it indoors. Cut at least a half inch off the base before putting it in water, and keep the tree stand container full of water until you discard the tree. Real trees also provide something that artificial trees can't...a holiday fragrance and feeling.

For more information on real Christmas trees, contact: Bob Harsel, North Dakota Forest Service, at (701) 683-4323.

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