

# Christmas Trees of Wisconsin



**Balsam fir** The Balsam Fir, a native of Wisconsin, is a truly superb Christmas tree. It has short,  $\frac{3}{4}$ "-1  $\frac{1}{2}$ ", flat needles, with a rounded tip. The needles are singly attached and form a very soft feather-like spray of foliage. It's lovely green color and it's fragrant, fresh-cut aroma make it one of the most desirable trees on the market. It's cones are about 3 inches long and ripen in the late summer/early fall. They fall apart while still on the tree, so you rarely see cones on the ground although you may see partial remains of the cones on the tree.



**Fraser fir** The Fraser Fir is a beautiful Christmas tree. It is native to the high elevations of the Appalachian Mountains, and has adapted well to the rugged Wisconsin climate. The needles are flat and short, 1"-1  $\frac{1}{4}$ " long, and have round tips. The dark green color and pleasant fresh-cut aroma make this a favorite. The branches are strong and the soft needles are pleasant to the touch and have a silvery underside. The needles remain on the tree throughout the Holiday Season.



**Spruce** Spruces are mostly found in cold climates. Needles are short,  $\frac{1}{2}$ "-1" long, stiff and sharp. The needles protrude from all sides of the twigs. The strong branches are excellent for holding ornaments. The Spruce is especially attractive when it's carefully cultured to an appealing density and shape.

*White spruce* is a valuable, native Wisconsin Tree. Because of the long fiber of the wood it is highly prized for pulp. It grows best on heavier soils and needs more moisture than pines. It's blue-green foliage is very attractive and makes a good Christmas tree. The Black Hills Spruce is a variety of White Spruce which has darker blue-green colored needles.

The *Colorado Blue spruce* is a truly beautiful tree. Needle color ranges from dark green to powdery blue with sharp needles that are 1" long. It has adapted well to the climate of Wisconsin, but grows slower than the White Spruce.

**Eastern White pine** The White Pine is the tree that made Wisconsin famous in the old logging days and is a native of Wisconsin. The soft long needles that have blue-green color with just a hint of white make this tree a favorite of pine buyers. The slender and flexible needles are 2"-5" long, in bundles of five. The boughs weep gracefully when hung with ornaments. Years of meticulous

shearing create a beautiful, dense, conical shaped tree that stands straight and retains its needles throughout the Christmas season.

**Scotch pine** The Scotch Pine is a bushy, full tree with 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ "-3" long needles that are stiff, flattened, twisted and spreading. The needles have a green to blue-green color and grow in bundles of two. The Scotch Pine was imported from Europe to be grown as Christmas trees and has many varieties. These include: Austrian Hills, Belgium, East Anglica, French, Riga, Scottish Highland, and many more.

You also may find that growers have other varieties of trees, which may include Canaan fir, Concolor (white) fir, Serbian spruce and Meyers spruce. These varieties are not very common, but you could inquire about them.

