



New Jersey Christmas Tree Growers Association
45th Annual Christmas Tree Contest
The Middlesex County Fair
Monday, August 5 – Sunday, August 11, 2019

To: NJCTGA Members

From: Andrew Alpaugh, Chairman Christmas Tree Contest

Re: Christmas Tree Contest

The 45th Annual Christmas Tree Contest will be held at the Middlesex County Fair on Saturday August 3rd. The Fair opens on Monday, August 5th, and runs through Sunday, August 11th. The Middlesex County Fair has welcomed us for the past several years and has proven to be a successful and well-attended location. The **deadline** for entries is **July 29th**. **Set-up** will begin on **Saturday, August 3rd** promptly at 8:30 am. Judging will begin promptly at 11:00 am. **No trees will be accepted after 10:30 am. Judges are not to arrive at the tent prior to 10:45 am.**

Entering the contest does not necessitate a trip to the Fair. Every effort will be made to have someone who has entered trees in the contest transport additional trees as needed. Please make arrangements for this service by contacting the Committee Chairman by **July 29th**. Of course, any assistance on set-up day is appreciated.

The Christmas Tree Contest is a proven way to advertise and promote the use of **Real Christmas Trees**. Keep in mind that at the early December **Annual Christmas Tree Cutting Ceremony**, the NJ Secretary of Agriculture will be cutting a tree on the farm from which the Fred E. Johnston **Grand Champion Winner** originates. We have also added a *Reserve Grand Champion* award to better position New Jersey for attending the National Contest. Media coverage is widespread – what terrific exposure for your farm!! Last year's display was a great success and, with your help, this year can be even better. Please enter to support your industry and the NJCTGA.

Detach the completed entry form at the end of this notice and send by **July 29th** to:

Andy Alpaugh, Contest Chairman
PO Box 211
Stockton, NJ 08559-0211
609-397-0615
frstree@comcast.net
Set-up day: 908-256-3329

CLASSES

1. Pine
2. Spruce
3. Fir
4. Table Top** (all species)

AWARDS

Fred E. Johnson, Jr. Grand Champion Award Plaque
(Includes **Class First Prize** and **Grand Champion Ribbon**)
(A Reserve Grand Champion Ribbon will also be awarded this year)

Each class receives **1st, 2nd, and 3rd Prize Ribbons**

General Rules

1. The contest is open to all NJCTGA member growers in the State.
2. Trees must have been grown in New Jersey.
3. All trees may be cut, potted, or balled and burlapped.*
4. Trees for classes 1, 2, & 3 must be between 6 and 8 feet tall, from cut butt or natural ground level to tip of leader. **Outside this range deducts all 10 points!! Be careful!**
5. Table top trees* (all species) for Class 4 must be between 2½ and 4 feet tall, from cut butt or natural ground level to tip of leader. **Outside this range deducts all 10 points!! Be careful!**
6. Handles must be properly trimmed prior to arriving at setup. Handles must be 6"-10" for classes 1, 2 & 3 and 2"-6" for Table Top. **Outside this range deducts all 10 points!! Be careful!**
7. Exhibitors may make an entry in each class for a total of 4 trees.
8. Each entry must have an attached tag indicating **name & address** of exhibitor, specific **species**, and **age** of tree from seed. (Tags are removed prior to judging.)
9. Entry **deadline** is July 29, 2019.
10. For entrant's convenience, there will be an attempt to coordinate the delivery of trees for those who are unable to bring their trees to the fair grounds. Volunteers are always welcome and appreciated for set-up day!
11. Trees are to be in the judging tent between 8:30am and 10:00 am on August 3rd for set-up.
12. Judging will begin promptly at 11:00am on August 3rd. **No trees will be accepted later than 10:30 am.** Judges will not be allowed to attend prior to 10:45am.
13. All trees will remain on display throughout the Fair.

Directions to the Middlesex County Fair Grounds:

655 Cranbury Road, East Brunswick, NJ 08816 (732) 257-8858

Directions on Fair website: <http://www.middlesexcountyfair.com/directions>

Contact information on set-up day: 908-256-3329

CRITERIA FOR SCORING

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Standard</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
Height	6'-8' (<u>Outside this range deduct 10 points</u>)	10
Foliage	Fresh – Clean – Uniform	15
Taper	Pines 40-90%, Spruces & Firs 40-70%	10
Density	Medium or Higher	15
Handle**	Well trimmed – 6-10" (<u>Improper handle – deduct 10</u>)	10
Color	Normal	10
Naturalness	Not perfectly smooth outside appearance	10
Lack of damage, No crooked stems, Holes, Uneven sides, insects, disease		20
PERFECT SCORE		100

* Table top trees are not eligible for the Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion designation.

** Handles are required on balled and burlapped entries.

ENTRY FORM

I plan to submit the following entrees in the 45th Annual Christmas Tree Contest at the **Middlesex County Fair**.

Check class(es) entered – 1 tree per class per farm

1. Pine _____ 2. Spruce _____ 3. Fir _____ 4. Table Top _____

Name: _____

Name of Farm: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____