



Executive Secretary Message

Donna Cole, NJCTGA
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

Hello everyone!

Spring is finally here and planting is finished. Springtime brings to mind our annual Twilight meeting. This year Paul May has graciously volunteered to host the twilight meeting at his Kenlin Farm on Delanco & Perkins Lane in Edgewater Park, Burlington County. It will be on Thursday June 23rd from 5:30 to 8:00 in the evening. Paul can be reached at 609-923-5254. We are fortunate to have Rutgers agents Tim Waller and Bill Errickson join us for one-on-one conversation and advice! We will have a light dinner, and there is no registration or fee....just join us. In addition NJ DEP has just approved pesticide license continuing education credits for this meeting.

With summer soon to be upon us, we are looking for a volunteer from the South to host the summer meeting this year. We prefer to alternate between North and South Jersey each year and the South is overdue. If interested, please contact me at your earliest convenience: 908-735-4658. Chris, Tim, and I will take care of everything other than the farm tour.

Thank you to for applying for the Choose and Cut Guide so early. The forms were very complete and Anne and I really appreciate that! If you have not yet sent in yours, please do so as soon as you can as it will go to print in early June. They will be available in large quantities at the summer meeting.

Have a safe and wonderful rest of spring. Hope to see you at the Twilight meeting.

Donna

Christmas Trees 101: Weed Management

By: Bill Lindberg, Michigan State University Extension, and Debalina Saha,
Michigan State University Extension, Department of Horticulture - May 5, 2022

Reprinted from Michigan State Univ. Extension Christmas Tree Website: www.canr.msu.edu/christmas_trees

Weed pressure can reduce seedling survivability and marketability of mature trees, directly impacting farm profitability. Weeds compete directly with Christmas trees for water and nutrients and when not controlled can lead to poor tree establishment and survival. In mature tree plantings, high weed pressure can interfere with production practices such as pruning and spraying and can harbor pests and diseases. Weeds can also affect the appearance and marketability of trees, directly reducing profitability for growers.

There are many weed control strategies in Christmas trees, including but not limited to mowing or other physical removal, applying chemicals (i.e., herbicides), using a physical barrier, like a fabric liner or organic mulch, or planting and managing cover crops. **Michigan State University Extension** (MSU Extension) recommends implementing a combination of weed control strategies that best fit your farm to achieve adequate control. Herbicides can be broken down into two categories based on how they function, either pre- or postemergence. Preemergence herbicides are applied to the soil prior to weeds germinating and can be expected to provide between six and eight weeks of residual weed control, depending on the product, weather conditions and

weed pressure. Preemergence herbicides inhibit the growth/emergence of weed seedlings as the germinate.

To broaden your weed control effectiveness and to reduce the chance of resistant weeds, it is a good practice to tank mix and apply at least two herbicides with different modes of action. In general, most preemergence products should be applied prior to tree budbreak, but it

is critical to review and follow all labeled instructions for maximum safety and effectiveness. Applications made in both the fall and spring can increase the duration of weed control.

Postemergence herbicides are applied to weeds that are already present. Some postemergence products move within the plant (i.e., translocate) from site of absorption to the root (e.g., glyphosate) and are known as systemic, while other products are non-systemic or contact herbicides, which target only the tissue directly contacted during application. In either case, it is important to realize that these products will not prevent new seedlings from emerging and may require repeated applications for continued weed control. Postemergence herbicides work best when applied to weeds that are young and actively growing and have not



Searching for a South Jersey Summer Meeting Site!

The Association is looking for a South Jersey Farm to host a August or September annual summer meeting.

The last couple years, summer meetings have been held in northern NJ and we would like to move south if we get a volunteer.

The Association will help by planning the refreshments, funding a large tent if needed, organizing speakers and more. As a host you will simply need to open your farm on a Saturday to about 75-80 NJCTGA members and family. If interested email Executive Secretary Donna Cole at execsecretary@njchristmastrees.org or call Donna at 908-735-4658.



Twilight Meeting to be Held June 23

Mark your calendars for our annual spring twilight meeting to be held on Thursday June 23, from 5:30 to 8:00 PM at Kenlin Tree Farm located at the intersection of Delanco Rd. and Perkins Lane in Edgewater Park, Burlington County.



Special thanks to farm owner Paul May for volunteering to host this meeting. Paul has been raising and selling Christmas trees here for over 30 years. Come out, enjoy an evening with fellow growers, enjoy some refreshments, tour the farm, hear from Rutgers specialists and receive some NJDEP pesticide license continuing education credits.



In Memoriam

James Friedrich
Friedrich Farm – Cream Ridge, Monmouth County
October 2021

Virginia Gebauer
Country Heritage Farm – Augusta, Sussex County
April 2022



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njchristmastrees.org

Contact Donna Cole, Exec. Secretary, at (908) 735-4658 or email execsecretary@njchristmastrees.org

DESIGNED AT ROWAN COLLEGE AT BURLINGTON COUNTY



Grower's Spotlight:

GOOSE HOLLOW FARM

Lafayette Township, Sussex County

By: Tim Dunne



Tim Dunne

A relatively new member to the NJ Christmas Tree Growers Association, Steve Snook is an enthusiastic grower with plans for 6-7 acres of trees on this new Sussex County tree farm. Steve's grandchildren, some of who are helping plant the Christmas tree farm, mark the 8th generation on these rolling hills in the upper reaches of the Wallkill River watershed. Steve and his wife Shirley own 37 acres of the family farm which includes a large pond, hay fields, pastures and the old dairy farm barns.

I visited with Steve on a rainy, early May day to look over his farm and hear the story of how he started the tree farm. It began about 7 years ago with a field of Norway spruce that are now nearing harvestable size. Steve cut one last December for his own house and reported it held needles well despite the reputation for Norway's losing needles quickly. A good sign. Since then Steve has included Canaan fir and concolor fir in his rotation. Steve hopes to begin selling choose & cut trees at the farm in 2023.



Grandchildren Haylee and Austyn Blanchard helping Steve with this year's planting.



Recently planted field of fir trees planted with Steve's new (used) one row tree planter.

Steve joined the NJCTGA early on, about five years ago because "I needed help!". He has received some guidance from long time grower and neighbor Bill Allison and NJTGA president Chris Nicholson which has helped him greatly. Bill advised him to use Diehard Root Dip when planting transplants and that should help survival of very young plants the first year. Chris sold Steve some equipment from his farm to help Steve get started. Other growers have given him other old equipment they no longer use. Steve and Shirley have attended grower meetings to learn more about the art and science of Christmas tree management.

An 8' tall woven wire deer fence was erected around the Christmas trees after several years of severe damage from bucks rubbing young trees. Steve says he would take a spotlight out at night and see 20 deer standing in the field before the fence was installed. Steve's number one piece of advice to any new grower "put up a deer fence from day one if you are in deer country." Most of Sussex County and most of NJ is deer country. Steve's other advice is "never give up". He and his family have worked hard to establish his young Christmas tree plantation and he did not give up.

As we toured the farm on a utility vehicle Steve told me he likes to say "my trees are the good, the bad, and the ugly". I saw lots of good trees during my visit and they seem to be getting better with each year's planting.



Field of Norway spruce ready for harvest in 2023.



Transplants from several years ago above the old dairy barn.

News from the Christmas Tree Promotion Board (CTPB)

CTPB Annual Seedling and Transplant Supplier Survey

In 2020 the Christmas Tree Promotion Board (CTPB) surveyed major seedling and transplant growers/suppliers to collect data that would provide a picture of the size and direction of Christmas tree production across the United States. This voluntary survey asked the supplier, to the best of their knowledge, to list the number of plants sold, or planted on their own operation, that were intended for use as Christmas trees. This data, collected for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 provides an estimate of the number of Christmas trees being planted in the field each year, and potentially harvested in the years to come. Plant listings were broken down into categories by species. There are many factors to consider when reviewing this data on the number of seedlings and transplants sold for intended use as Christmas trees. Post-planting seedling mortality rates vary greatly between species, growing regions, and years due to climatic conditions. The size of seedling or transplant that is planted in the field varies by species. While we received many responses, there were some suppliers who chose not to participate. This will be an annual survey with the goal to develop an accurate picture over time. Below are listed selected data for some popular fir species .

Seedlings and Transplants Sold of Some Fir Species for Intended Use as Christmas Trees

Species	2020	2019	2018
Fraser Fir	13,556,194	12,267,919	11,001,913
Balsam Fir	1,236,958	1,099,037	1,253,180
Canaan Fir	2,018,300	1,890,884	1,681,835
Concolor Fir	481,160	573,945	584,325
Korean Fir	278,490	245,450	235,710
Douglas Fir	917,625	1,528,645	1,647,540
Nordmann Fir	778,600	601,500	480,400

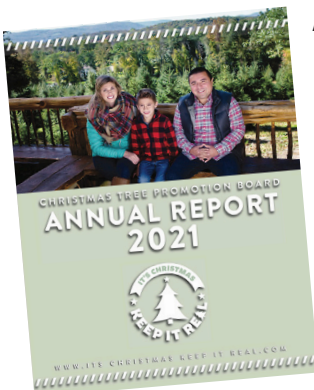
Editor's notes

While this is only raw data on seedlings and transplants sold, some interesting trends appear. Popularity of Fraser fir continues to increase and is by far the most popular tree planted today. Balsam fir numbers remain fairly stable over the three year survey. Canaan fir is increasing in popularity as is Nordmann fir with Nordmann numbers almost doubling over the three years. Douglas fir numbers are decreasing dramatically. While Douglas fir was the second most popular species planted in 2018, in 2020 it fell to the forth most popular species planted.

Annual Reports Delivered

The 2021 Annual Report for the CTPB was delivered in April to all assessment payers.

The annual report includes updates on research projects, the promotion campaign as well as audited 2021-22 fiscal year financials for the organization. Additional copies can be requested by calling the office: 800-985-0773. Or, check it out on the industry website: <https://www.christmas-treepromotionboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/CTPB-2021-Annual-Report.pdf>



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NJCTGA Newsletter Ad Sizes & Rates

FULL PAGE
7.75" wide x 9.875" high..... \$100

HALF PAGE
7.75" wide x 4.863" high..... \$60

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3.795" wide x 4.863" high..... \$35

If possible, ads should be submitted in PDF format. Contact Exec. Secretary Donna Cole for additional details.

Weed Management 101 continued from page 1

started flowering/seeding (reproductive stage).

Postemergence herbicides can cause crop injury, especially when they come in direct contact with active growing points of Christmas trees. Most postemergence products should be applied prior to bud break in the spring or after growth has hardened off in the fall. Some growers report tree injury when applications are made in the spring, even though there appears to be no active Christmas tree growth at the time of application. Although no active growth may be visible, buds can be active and swelling prior to observable growth and are vulnerable to injury at this stage. MSU Extension recommends reading and following label directions and minimizing direct spray contact with trees whenever possible.

Some growers are interested in organic weed control options. They can include mowing, physically removing weeds, using cover crops or using a barrier between the weeds and soil surface. Using mulch as a barrier can have added benefits for the soil health, increase water and nutrient holding capacity, moderate soil temperatures and improve transplant survival. These options can be effective but will likely require repeated applications with high labor costs.

Integrating two or more methods, such as combining herbicides with organic mulch or mowing, can improve weed control in Christmas tree production. An integrated approach not only improves weed management, but also mitigates chances of resistance development among weed species and impose less risk to the environment.

For more detailed **herbicide weed control** information and in-depth talks on various weed control strategies, view the 2022 winter Christmas tree webinar series from MSU Extension:

Got weeds? Weed management in Christmas tree production

Glyphosate risk, alternatives, and resistant weeds

Weed management in Christmas trees

Alternative weed management strategies in Christmas trees

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <https://extension.msu.edu>. To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit <https://extension.msu.edu/newsletters>.

Welcome New Members!

Joseph Corrado,
Corrado's Farm
Hackettstown,
Warren County

**Bruce and Margaret
Heyman, Grace
Christmas Tree Farm**
Frankfort,
Sussex County

**Nicholas Kwiecinski
and Julia Fochesata,**
Old Silo Farm
New Egypt,
Ocean County

Anthony Mastrocola,
(no farm name yet)
Stockton,
Hunterdon County

**William and Sarah
Parkhill, Echo Hill Farm**
Moorestown,
Burlington County



Shearing Equipment



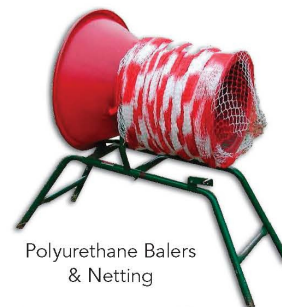
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