




# Live Trees for Christmas




It takes 10 to 12 years for a Christmas tree to grow but guess what? All those years it helps the Earth. Many of us worry that cutting down that tree will hurt the Earth. If you cut one from a national park or protected habitat, that wouldn't be good. However, Christmas tree farms replant millions of trees each year and that's great for the Earth.

## Here is how a Christmas tree helps the Earth.

1. While it is growing It removes carbon dioxide from the air all year long. That helps to slow Global Warming
2. It helps reduce air pollution by absorbing toxic gases and changing them to more breathable air.
3. It helps to filter particles of dust, ash, pollen and smoke.
4. It's roots help absorb water into the soil and hold the soil in place.
5. It helps to provide a habitat for wildlife.



### More good things...



A real tree can be composted to help the Earth. Check to see if your town has a tree recycling program. If not, ask them to start one. You can also cut up your tree and put it in a composting area in your yard. If you have to put it in the trash make sure it isn't in a bag. A real tree can be used as mulch for pathways and compost for your garden.



### Make Green Trees Even "Greener"

There are Earth problems with growing and shipping Christmas trees but here's how to make it better and turn these holiday trees even "greener."

1. To save on the gasoline, which creates pollution, buy local Christmas trees that aren't shipped long distances.
2. Buy trees grown in an Earth healthy manner. Ask your tree farmer if they use pesticides and other chemicals for growing the trees. These toxins can harm wildlife and drain into lakes and rivers damaging water habitat. [Learn More](#)
3. Chemicals and toxic dyes should not be sprayed on the trees. This can harm you in your home and harm wildlife.
4. Some people are allergic to pine trees. In that case it's ok to use artificial trees. But consider this: Reuse these trees for many years or they all end up in landfills. Also many artificial trees are made from pvc and have toxic chemicals on them. Check out your choice! Find a healthy one.



Check out this video about live Christmas trees

<http://www.mncta.com/index.html> Then learn how to care for live trees: <http://www.mncta.com/treecare.html>