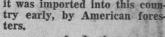
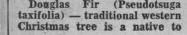


Monterey pine (Pinus radiata), native to this area, is now grown as important timber tree

in Australia from seed collected near Davenport.





Douglas Fir (Pseudotsuga Santa Cruz county, also found in the Sierra Nevada and the Rockies,

White Fir (Abies concolor) -a native of California's north-

Nevada. Sometimes mistaken for the high-elevation Silver ern coastal range and the Sierra Tip-or Red fir.



Scotch Pine - (Pinus Syl- it was imported into this counvestris) - one of Europe's try early, by American foresleading timber trees. Because of its timber value in Europe



Christmas Tree Time - Family Fun For Everyone

By Margaret Koch CHRISTMAS TREE ...

The very words sound green and prickley and sharply fragrant. Santa Cruzans are holiday-lucky. They can bundle the kids into the car and drive a short distance to "choose and cut' their own fresh tree.

tree. Hmmm . . . I wonder what sometimes mistaken for the high-jular here as Christmas trees and Sequoia Park fame, also is kind it is?"

Truly, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Most people know what they like when they see it. But few know what they are looking at - in the way of a Christmas tree, that is.

Take the westerners' tradition-They can wander at will al Christmas tree — the Douglas

altitude Silver Tip which it re- are grown on local plantations. sembles. White fir is short-nee- The Monterey pine has been dled and symmetrical, a more termed by some tree fanciers as formal Christmas tree than the "the Christmas tree of the elite." Douglas fir. And because it's It's considered by some to be a slower growing, it's also more more sophisticated tree than the

All the fir trees are shortneedled. Needles range in

The Scotch pine also is bushy

available at several local plantations. It's a cousin to Santa Cruz county's native Sequoia sempervirens, the gigantea has more rigid branches which may be decorated without drooping clear to the floor as the weaker coastal tree will do.

Its "leaves" are flat and more

Where You Can Choose, Cut

Here's where you can "choose and cut." The following list includes member-growers of the California Christmas Tree Growers association in Santa Cruz county listed by

By Margaret Koch CHRISTMAS TREE ...

The very words sound green and prickley and sharply fragrant. Santa Cruzans are holiday-lucky. They can bundle the kids into the car and drive a short distance to "choose and cut' their own fresh tree.

They can wander at will tree plantations, selecting — re- full-bodied and joyous-smelling jecting. Everybody gets into the tree in most cases. The old-time

"Mama; I want that one." "No - I think it's a little lopsided."

"Then how about THAT one the great big one?"

"No, because it looks a bit thin naments and tinsel. here and there. But here's a nice There's the White fir too. It is

kind it is?"

Truly, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Most people know what they like when they see it. But few know what they are looking at - in the way of a Christmas tree, that is.

Take the westerners' traditional Christmas tree — the Douglas through the rows of a number of fir. It's a dark green, rich-furred, and "painted trees" and any other kind - except the Douglas fir.

All the fir trees are shortneedled. Needles range in half inches long. Each needle is placed individually on the limb or twig. The fir tree's over-all general shape is triangular.

(from four to five inches) which easily as a pine because they do fir in the living room, twinkling grow in clusters or fascicles, giv- grow in the characteristic faswith lights and gorgeous with or- inging the tree a "puffed out" or cicles. more rounded look.

tree. Hmmm . . . I wonder what | sometimes mistaken for the high-pular here as Christmas trees and altitude Silver Tip which it re- are grown on local plantations.

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The Scotch pine also is bushy and round, but a lighter green in length from one to one and a color, tending almost toward the chartreuse tints. Just to further complicate the problem of identification, its needles are shorter only about two and one-half inch-Pines have longer needles es long. But it can be identified

Sequoia gigantea — the giant Several kinds of pines are pop- redwood of Giant Forest and

Sequola Park fame, also is available at several local plantations. It's a cousin to Santa Cruz county's native Sequoia sempervirens, the gigantea has more rigid branches which may be decorated without drooping clear to the floor as the weaker coastal tree will do.

Its "leaves" are flat and more like scales than leaflets, but it makes a spectacular and "different" looking Christmas tree.

Also to be had locally are several other pines which include the Coulter pine (a gray-green tree), and Australian and Shore pines.

A word of two of caution:

1. All growers do not have all kinds of trees. Check the list accompanying this article - or telephone the plantation first to find out.

2. Not even a fresh-cut tree will hold up well unless it receives the proper care. Place it in a bucket of water in a cool, shaded spot.

plantation 3. Remember owners have their problems. It takes from five to eight years to grow a tree to the six or sevenfoot marketable size. Then the trees must be sold during the shortest marketing period for any commodity: three consecutive weekends of two days each, with about six hours of daylight each day. Some sales are scattered through the weekdays. But the

majority of them fall on week-

If you choose to visit the most popular plantations you may run into traffic problems. Growers are making efforts to improve facilities for handling large numbers of people and cars. But don't expect miracles these things take time. So don't go to cut a tree "in a hurry.

4. Cut the tree as the grower requests: just above the first whorl of branches (so the tree will be able to reproduce itself in a few years.)

5. Dress warmly for a tree-cutting jaunt. And wear walking

6. And most important of all: Have fun - and a Merry Christ-



Mrs. Jim Downing of Downing's Forest on Day Valley road off Freedom boulevard, shows how a "turn-up tree" can start from a properly cut stump. At least one whorl of limbs must be left at the time of cutting. This tree happens to be a Douglas fir but the principle is the same for pines and firs.

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APTOS: Downing's Forest, 1155 Day Valley road. Turn onto Freedom boulevard at Mon Desir restaurant. Follow signs to trees which are located at above address, two miles East of Highway 1. Phones: 722-1541 and 724-9184. Trees grown: 1000 Monterey pine, 4000 Douglas fir, 100 Scotch pine, and 100 Sierra redwoods.

EMPIRE GRADE ROAD: Crest Ranch, 121/2 miles north of Santa Cruz. Phone: 426-1522. Trees grown: 6000 Douglas fir, 6000 Scotch pine, 2000 White fir, 500 Austrian pine and 1000 Shore pine.

FELTON: Cheney ranch, 2340 Zayante road. Phone 33 5-4992. Trees grown: 100 Monterey pine and 500 Douglas fir.

SKYLINE BOULEVARD: Triangle ranch, 19715 Skyline blvd., Los Gatos. Location of trees: nine miles south of Saratoga Gap between Gist road and Bear Creek road. Phones: 354-8275 and 354-1423. Trees grown: 8000 Monterey pine, 2000 White fir, 6000 Douglas fir, some Coulter pine.

SOQUEL: Robison ranch, 9000 Glen Haven road. Phone: 475-1388. Trees grown: 40 Douglas fir, 70 Scotch pine and 20 assorted kinds.



The Monterey pine, top picture has long needles which grow in little clusters (or fascicles) of three. The Scotch

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Pine has two needles in each cluster. The Douglas fir, bottom picture, and all true firs have individual needles which are placed singly on branches and twigs.