

Tree Line



New Hampshire-Vermont Christmas Tree Association

October 2006

Special points of interest:

- ◆ **Group Insurance Discount:**
The NHVTCTA recently negotiated a group insurance benefit package for its members with the Co-operative Insurance Companies, based in Middlebury, Vt. Contact your local insurance agent for details.
- ◆ **Winter Meeting:**
Mark Tuesday, January 23, on your calendar. That's the date of the NHVTCTA winter meeting at the Canadian Club in Barre, Vermont. Remember to bring along a tree or wreath to enter in the Vermont Farm Show competition that day. For more information on that competition, contact Jon Turmel at (802) 828-3490.
- ◆ **Seeking Marketing Members:**
The NHVTCTA marketing committee is in urgent need of assistance, especially in organizing the gazebo and in helping to organize fair participation. Contact chair Walt Rockwood at (802) 685-2282.

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50th Anniversary Meeting Wrap-Up

Except for a few rain showers Friday afternoon, the 50th anniversary celebration of NHVTCTA and biennial conference of NECTA went off without a hitch. Over 250 growers, spouses and vendors occupied the grounds of the Tonry Farm in Hampton Falls, N.H., on September 28 - 30 to discuss the science and art of Christmas tree culture, and the marketing of the "real tree" experience.

The highly successful meeting was not without its moments, however. In addressing the distinctions between eastern firs, Dr. Max McCormack stirred the pot by turning his topic's subtitle: "What are the Real Differences?" into "Are there Real Differences?" Dr. Russ Briggs from Syracuse arrived Friday night with plans to make a power point presentation on soils and fertilizer. When program chair Russ Reay told him a field session was planned, he asked if there was a backhoe available. He was offered not only a backhoe, but an operator in the person of 85-year-old Alice Tonry.

"It makes me feel so powerful," she said. Patrick Downey gave four presentations on the subject of shearing Fraser fir, and some growers stayed for all four. Perhaps the most gratifying surprise was the tremendous success of the "Alternate Program," planned by Jean Peterson as a floral/crafts alternative to the planting/ shearing/spraying program, which attracted 30-45 participants.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Marshall Patmos for his contributions to the Christmas tree industry in his career as Cheshire County (N.H.) forester, and to Dug Kell for his unflagging support of our association, and several others, during his 50 years in the wreath supply business. Dug entertained the shore dinner group with tales of the early years of Kelco. Our musical needs were thoroughly met by Lindsey Johnson of Concord, Vt., who launched the celebration with "The Star-Spangled Banner," and provided live vocals for the shore dinner.

Important: Canaan Fir Group Buying Information

As you may know, the Canaan Fir Tree Company is unable to supply NHVTCTA members with transplants in the future.

Based on that information, we initially thought that Canaan fir would not be available as a bulk purchase next spring, but we have located another source that we feel offers a quality product with a guaranteed Canaan Valley seed source.

As a result, NHVTCTA will once again able to offer Canaan fir through our group buying pro-

gram. Trees will come from Reliable Source Tree Company of Morgantown, West Virginia.

They are fall planted, and are sold as a P-1 ½. Trees are 12+ inches, and must be ordered in units of 200. Assuming there are sufficient orders, price will be \$.90 each delivered to The Rocks in Bethlehem, N.H.

Quantities are limited. Please contact Jim Horst (802-447-1900) as soon as possible but no later than November 1. A 25% deposit is required to confirm your order.

President's Message

Hello from Plymouth, N.H.

Our association recently celebrated its 50th anniversary—and it was a great success.

Walt Rockwood, general chair of the conference, and Russ Reay, program chair, were hard at work for over two years planning this big event. When you run into them make sure you let them know how much their time was appreciated.

Our Hosts at the Tonry Farm provided the perfect site to share with our fellow NECTA growers, and also deserve our thanks.

Do you ever wonder how things seem to run so smooth in this association? We are fortunate that we have Jim Horst as our executive secretary providing the support and talent to keep a worth while organization running efficiently while making it look easy.

It has always astounded me how unselfish this membership is. Sixteen years ago I started taking my hand written notes from

Association meetings and started entering them into a database. I do admit I've gotten a little lax the last couple of years, but whenever I have a question about fertilizer, marketing or even equipment, I can pull it up on my computer, any hour of the day, and ask questions to Bill Weir, Bill Conley...our friends to the North...and many other successful growers.

When I do open this database it always reminds me of how open the membership is with their knowledge and their unselfish willingness to help others.

Hope to see you all at the January meeting in Barre.

Mike Ahern, president



New Hampshire-Vermont Christmas Tree Association



President
Vice President
Recording Secretary
Executive Secretary/Treasurer
Past President
Marketing Committee Chair
Group Buying Chair

2006 Officers

Mike Ahern (603) 536-2334
Rich Rockwood (802) 685-4343
Carolyn Page (603) 664-2934
Jim Horst (802) 447-1900
Russell Reay (802) 492-3323
Walt Rockwood (802) 685-2282
Bill Nichols (603) 353-4832

(Term Ends)

(2006)
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Mike Godzyk (603) 237-5702
Ben Hoyt (603) 838-6403
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Phil Kivlin (802) 897-8031
Nigel Manley (603) 444-6228
Bill Nichols (603) 353-4832
Rich Rockwood (802) 685-4343
Mary Lou Schmidt (802) 257-0233
Susan Taylor (603) 239-4005
Bob White (802) 899-4924
Patrick White (802) 223-3880

Alternate Directors

(2006) Jay Weir (NH) (603) 237-8617
(2006) Larry Krygier (VT) (802) 827-6123

Contact Information

Jim Horst, Executive Secretary
569 Pleasant Valley Road
Bennington, VT 05201-9637
Phone: (802) 447-1900
E-mail: info@nh-vtchristmastree.org
Association Website: www.nh-vtchristmastree.org

For matters related to Tree Line only:

Patrick White, Editor
NHVTCTA Tree Line
18 Merritt Road
Middlesex, VT 05602
Phone: (802) 223-3880
E-mail: pwhitevt@aol.com

2007 Tree Line Publication Schedule

Issue	Ad/Submission Deadline	Mailing Date
January	December 22, 2006	January 5
June	May 18	June 1
September	August 24	September 7


*Denotes second consecutive term



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Exotics Update: Korean Fir (*Abies koreana*)

By Bob Girardin

Many New England growers of Fraser fir are finding that after two or more rotations they are losing trees to root rot. A few New England growers have solved this problem by growing Korean fir where Fraser fir will not survive.

I have been asked several times what exotic conifer will have the greatest impact on the future of the Christmas tree, ornamental and greens industry.

From my personal experience and the feedback I have received from growers from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Germany, I believe that one of the most important exotic species is *Abies Koreana* (Korean fir).

Christmas Tree

As a Christmas tree, the Korean Fir has the following traits:

- Good growth rate.
- Transplants easily.
- Winter hardy - does not winter burn.
- Tolerates a wide range of soil types.
- Grows well in hardiness zones 2,3,4,5, and 6.
- Does best on pH under 6.
- Some seed sources cone early.
- Breaks bud late. Shear leaders in the spring before bud break to ensure straight leaders.
- Self shaping- requires very little shearing.
- Great tree for pot-in-pot growing.
- Appears resistant to insects and disease.
- Fibrous root system.
- When crossed with balsam fir the hybrid outperforms both parents. The Korean is the female in this cross. It grows faster than either parent and it exhibits that flash of white on

the needles which is the signature of the Korean fir. This tree is a tremendous seller at my farm in New Hampshire.

- Great mail order tree.
- Beautiful foliage, with a flash of white.
- Excellent needle retention.
- Holds heavy ornaments.
- Nice fragrance.
- Customers love it!

Ornamental

- Excellent landscape specimen.
- Keeps nice compact shape.
- Easily maintained.

Greens

- Makes beautiful wreath, swag, or container decoration.
- Its flash of white on the foliage makes any decoration attractive.

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Research Report: Weed management practices for fall

By John F. Ahrens
Connecticut Agricultural
Experiment Station, Valley
Laboratory, Windsor

Fall is the time to control most herbaceous perennial and woody weeds that cannot easily be controlled during the growing season or have escaped earlier treatments. Growers who forego fall treatments sooner or later pay a higher price. For example, woody species are short and easy to control the first season after germination or resprouting, but may be 4- to 6-feet tall a year later, presenting a much greater control challenge.

Two herbicides that fill the

nitch for fall use in Christmas trees are glyphosate products (Roundup Original and equivalents) and triclopyr amine (Garlon 3A). Foliar sprays of both injure conifers during the growing season but are tolerated by spring applications before bud break in selected conifers and by fall applications in September or later; at specified rates and methods of application.

Glyphosate controls most perennial weeds and grasses and most woody plants that have healthy leaves in the fall, when these plants have slower top growth and are transporting their sugars from leaves to roots. Glyphosate moves in plants with

the sugars. In the spring, woody plants either do not have sufficient leaves or are moving sugars to new shoots but not to roots. At that time, glyphosate may kill the tops but not the root systems. Furthermore, in the early spring, certain perennials such as wirestem muhly and horsenettle have not "greened up" and, therefore, escape glyphosate applications. The bottom line is that early fall is the best overall timing for broad spectrum weed control with glyphosate. Some perennials such as brambles and perennial grasses are controlled by glyphosate even in October and November, after killing frosts, but woody plants, ferns and bindweed must be treated before leaf senescence (yellowing) or drop.

Triclopyr controls only broadleaf weeds and woody plants, with little effect on most grasses and sedges. It has an advantage over glyphosate in that it can be applied in row middles to control weeds and brush without eliminating the grasses. Most growers prefer grasses for a stable ground cover between tree rows. Triclopyr also is more effective than glyphosate in controlling certain woody species such as maple and bittersweet. However, Garlon 3A is a restricted use herbicide in some states (not Connecticut), which means that a pesticide applicator's license may be required for its purchase, and it costs more per acre than glyphosate. Timing of application and tolerance of dormant conifers for glyphosate and triclopyr are about the same; white pines and Douglas-fir are more susceptible to injury from both than spruces and true firs. However, for spot directed sprays of woody plants such as poison ivy, Virginia creeper and multi-flora rose in early season (late May or June) triclopyr is apt to be more effective for root kill than glyphosate.



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Seedlings & Transplants, Fall 2006 - Spring 2007 (Partial Listing)

SPRUCE VARIETIES	Age	Size	Per 50	Per 100	Per 1000
Colorado Blue Spruce (picea pungens glauca) Zones 2-7					
3 yr. seedlings	3-0	9-16"	31.25	50.00	250.00
4 yr. Seedlings	4-0	16-24"	43.75	70.00	350.00
4 yr. transplants	2-2	8-16"	87.50	140.00	700.00
5 yr. transplants*	2-3	10-18"	106.25	170.00	850.00
* 6 yr. transplants*	3-3	14-26"	125.00	200.00	1000.00

Norway Spruce (picea abies) Zones 2-7					
3 yr. seedlings	3-0	10-18"	35.00	55.00	275.00
4 yr. seedlings	4-0	16-28"	43.75	70.00	350.00
4 yr. transplants	2-2	10-18"	106.25	170.00	850.00
* 5 yr. transplants*	2-3	14-24"	125.00	200.00	1000.00
6 yr. transplants*	3-3	24-36"	156.25	280.00	1260.00

Serbian Spruce (picea omorika) Zones 4-7					
3 yr. seedlings	3-0	9-16"	43.75	70.00	350.00
4 yr. seedlings	4-0	12-20"	54.00	85.00	425.00
5 yr. transplants*	3-2	14-22"	125.00	200.00	1000.00

White Spruce (picea glauca) Zones 4-7					
3 yr. seedlings	3-0	10-18"	31.25	50.00	250.00
4 yr. seedlings	4-0	14-24"	43.75	70.00	350.00
5 yr. transplants*	2-3	14-28"	112.50	180.00	900.00

FIR VARIETIES	Age	Size	Per 50	Per 100	Per 1000
Fraser Fir (abies fraseri) Zones 4-7					
3 yr. seedlings	3-0	4-8"	57.50	90.00	300.00
4 yr. seedlings	4-0	8-15"	90.00	140.00	400.00
4 yr. transplants	2-2	6-12"	106.25	170.00	650.00
5 yr. transplants*	2-3	9-16"	118.75	190.00	950.00
6 yr. transplants*	3-3	16-24"	137.50	220.00	1100.00

Fraser Fir (Ayers Seed Orchard) Zones 4-7					
3 yr. seedlings	3-0	4-8"	43.75	70.00	350.00
4 yr. seedlings	4-0	8-15"	56.25	90.00	450.00

Bracted Balsam Fir (abies balsamea var. phanerolepis) Zones 3-6					
3 yr. seedlings	3-0	5-10"	43.75	70.00	350.00

Concolor Fir (abies concolor) Zones 3-7					
3 yr. seedlings	3-0	9-16"	50.00	80.00	400.00
4 yr. seedlings	4-0	12-20"	56.25	90.00	450.00

Canaan Fir (abies balsamea phanerolepis) Zones 4-7					
4 yr. transplants	2-2	7-14"	112.50	180.00	900.00
5 yr. transplants*	2-3	8-16"	125.00	200.00	1000.00

Douglas Fir (Lincoln N.F. New Mexico) Zones 4-6					
3 yr. seedlings	3-0	12-20"	43.75	70.00	350.00
3 yr. transplants	1-2	6-12"	81.25	130.00	650.00
4 yr. transplants	2-2	8-16"	106.25	170.00	850.00

Douglas Fir (Deep Mountain®) Zones 4-6					
3 yr. seedlings	3-0	6-12"	50.00	80.00	400.00
5 yr. transplants*	2-3	10-18"	118.75	190.00	950.00

Douglas Fir (Shuswap Lake Region, B.C.) Zones 4-8					
3 yr. seedlings	3-0	14-22"	50.00	80.00	400.00
4 yr. seedlings	4-0	20-30"	62.50	100.00	500.00
4 yr. transplants	2-2	7-14"	106.25	170.00	850.00

PINE VARIETIES	Age	Size	Per 50	Per 100	Per 1000
Scotch Pine (Lake Superior Blue II®) Zones 5-8					
2 yr. seedlings	2-0	5-10"	35.00	55.00	275.00

Scotch Pine (Belgium) Zones 2-8					
2 yr. seedlings	2-0	5-10"	32.00	50.00	250.00

Scotch Pine (French Highland) Zones 2-8					
3 yr. seedlings	3-0	8-16"	44.00	70.00	350.00

Eastern White Pine (Northern Seed Source) Zones 3-8					
3 yr. seedlings	3-0	6-12"	44.00	70.00	350.00
4 yr. seedlings	4-0	16-24"	56.25	90.00	450.00
5 yr. transplants*	3-2	14-22"	100.00	160.00	800.00
* 6 yr. transplants*	3-3	16-28"	112.50	180.00	900.00

Eastern White Pine (Southern Seed Source) Zones 3-8					
3 yr. seedlings	3-0	6-12"	44.00	70.00	350.00
4 yr. seedlings	4-0	16-24"	56.25	90.00	450.00
5 yr. transplants*	3-2	14-22"	100.00	160.00	800.00
* 6 yr. transplants*	3-3	16-28"	112.50	180.00	900.00

OTHER VARIETIES	Age	Size	Per 50	Per 100	Per 1000
American Arborvitae (Thuja occidentalis) Zones 4-8					
3 yr. seedlings	3-0	7-14"	47.00	75.00	375.00
5 yr. transplants*	3-2	12-20"	118.75	190.00	950.00

Eastern Red Cedar (juniperus virginiana) Zones 2-9					
3 yr. seedlings	3-0	14-24"	50.00	80.00	400.00
4 yr. transplants	2-2	8-16"	87.50	140.00	700.00

Canadian Hemlock (tsuga canadensis) Zones 3-7					
3 yr. seedlings	3-0	6-12"	47.00	75.00	375.00
4 yr. seedlings	4-0	12-20"	56.25	90.00	450.00
* 5 yr. transplants*	2-3	14-24"	118.75	190.00	950.00
6 yr. transplants*	3-3	20-30"	150.00	240.00	1200.00

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Trees for Troops 2006

By Nigel Manley

After two years of conducting its own Trees for Troops program, this year the NHVTCTA will continue the effort through The Christmas Spirit Foundation (www.Christmasspiritfoundation.org) is the charity arm of the National Christmas Tree Association, NCTA.

Last year the Foundation helped support farmers affected by Hurricane Katrina as well as master minding the national Trees for Troops program which was generously sponsored by Fed-Ex.

In 2005, 4,300 trees were donated to the program; 4,000 were picked up and delivered by Fed Ex trucks to bases across the United States. Some 300 additional trees were even flown to the Middle East for some of our troops overseas.

This year I was happy to be voted President of the Christmas Spirit Foundation and work with staff and volunteers to implement Trees for Troops 2006.

Fed-Ex is prepared for 14,000 trees to be donated for delivery to troops and their families in the United States and overseas. Fed-Ex has generously agreed to sponsor the program by providing trucking for the trees within the United States and a plane to fly the trees overseas, all we have to do is provide the trees.

The Rocks Estate, the Forest Society's Christmas Tree Farm in Bethlehem, N.H., will be the central collection point for donated trees from New Hampshire and Vermont. From Bethlehem they will be transported to bases and given to troops and their families.

We encourage all growers to generously support the program, and make arrangements with neighboring growers to collect the trees and deliver them to the pick-up point in Bethlehem. It is important for growers to tell me **by Nov. 1** how many trees they are going to drop off at the Rocks. Call (603) 444-6228 or e-mail info@therocks.org.

NCTA Update

Through aggressive marketing, promotion and media programs, the Real Tree Market Expansion Campaign has made a difference. Three straight years of declining sales have ended. But, despite fantastic



success in just two years, we've only reached 2000 sales levels. There is room to grow! How's that? In the 1990s, 36% of the 113 million U.S. households purchased a Real Tree. If 36% of the 113 million U.S. households purchased a Real Tree in 2005, the industry would have sold 40.7 million trees. (Instead, that number was 32.8 million.)

Priority programs for 2006

Level 1: The base Real Tree promotion programs which includes distributing our messages through the news media; youth & school program; environmental promotion; NCTA's Web site; the consumer tracking poll.

Level 2: Renewing the National Santa Contest for a third year; expanding presence on television; continuing successful English and Spanish radion PSAs; continuing the successful advergence as a means of reaching more Gen-Yers.

Level 3: If additional funds become available, expand distribution of television materials; produce a new advergence; increase Internet promotions aimed at huge Generation Y population; create radio advertising program for stations that play Christmas music 2/7; enhance Marketing Tool Kit; produce a Podcast broadcast.

Please consider investing 12 cents per tree sold in Real Tree Market Expansion. Visit www.realchristmastrees.org.

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Spring 2007 Price List

Canaan Fir	P+1 1/2	12"+ up	.76e
Fraser Fir	p+1+1 Ayers Roan Mt.	12" + up	.97e
Fraser Fir	p+2 Ayers Roan Mt.	12" + up	.91e
Colorado Blue Spruce	p+1½ Misty Blue	10" + up	.76e
Norway Spruce	p+1½	12" + up	.76e
Canadian Hemlock	p+1+1	12" + up	.97e
Concolor Fir	p+1½	12" + up	.76e
Douglas Fir	p+1½ Lincoln	12" + up	.76e
White Pine	p+ 1	12" + up	.76e
Serbian Spruce	p+ 1 ½	12" + up	.76e

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continued from page 6

Combinations of glyphosate and triclopyr are often justified for fall application to improve control of maple, ash, perennial vetch and wild parsnip. Common rates would be 1 quart of each per acre or 1 fluid ounce of each (41% glyphosate and triclopyr amine) per gallon for non-calibrated spot sprays where contact with conifer foliage is minimized.

We have thoroughly covered the subject of different glyphosate formulations in recent issues of The Real Tree Line. In summary, Roundup "Original" has been phased out and some formulations of glyphosate may have surfactants that increase its injury potential on conifers. There are many generic forms of glyphosate and the few that we have verified to be about equivalent to Roundup "Original" include "Glyfos", "Credit",

"Glyphosate 4", "Clear Out 41 Plus" and "Roundup Original Max". However, the latter contains a higher concentration of glyphosate so that a lower dosage is used. Be sure to read the labels! Certain other brands of glyphosate also are suitable, but we have not tested them all. My advice is to rely on your pesticide suppliers to provide a product that is registered for Christmas trees and is equivalent in crop safety to "Roundup Original". Remember, too, that any formulation of glyphosate is safe in conifers if sprays are fully directed to avoid conifer foliage or used before planting, because glyphosate is inactivated on contact with soil.


Because glyphosate leaves no residue in soil to inhibit seed germination, sprays, especially in early fall, allow later germination of winter annual and some perennial weeds that may not be easily killed with spring herbicides. Horseweed (marestail), pepperweeds and mustards are examples. To avoid this, low rates of the preemergence herbicides simazine (Princep, Sim-Trol, etc.) or SureGuard (flumioxazin) can be added to the fall sprays of

glyphosate. My preference, from the cost standpoint, is simazine at 2 lbs. (active ingredient) per acre, but if triazine-resistant horseweed is a problem it may be necessary to add 1 to 1½ pints of "Roundup Original" or equivalent to the herbicide sprays in the spring. For example, Roundup Original or equivalent at 43 fluid ounces per acre plus simazine 2 lbs. active per acre in the fall could be followed by SureGuard at 10 to 12 ounces (by weight)

plus Roundup Original at 16 to 24 fluid ounces in the spring, before bud break. Do not add any surfactant to these glyphosate sprays.





We know that semi-directed basal sprays using off-center nozzles are usually best with glyphosate or triclopyr. However, it is important to set the nozzles high enough so that the weed foliage is covered by an overlap-




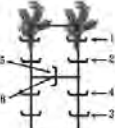

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Exotics update: Korean Fir

continued from page 4

Feedback

"We have sold Korean fir for cut Christmas trees for about the last 5 years. They do very well in our sandy loam soils in Michigan. As compared to Fraser fir, they seem to take a year longer to reach Christmas tree height (7 feet). They do break bud late - almost as late as the Fraser firs. The foliage is fantastic, with a good green color on top and a silver underside of the needle making for a good contrast. You can really pick them out in the field on a windy day when the branches move. We have not had any problems with winter burn or frost damage. I have tried them twice in my house in a test with 6 other fir varieties and needle retention has been excellent. Demand for transplants in our nursery has been picking up for Koreans, especially the last 2-3 years. We are increasing our plantings to meet what we hope will be increasing interest in Korean firs."

*Jim Nickelson,
Needlefast Evergreens in
Ludington, Michigan*

"Korean fir is a winner in every category of evaluation. It exhibits hardiness, beautiful foliage, and general ornamental beauty. We find them especially easy to dig, for a true fir. The root system is more like an Austrian pine with seldom a tap root (our soils are heavy)."

*Don Hilliker
Treehaven Evergreen
Nursery in Elma, New York*

"Korean fir is not a major species, but a number of growers have it as part of their portfolio. It tolerates a wide range of soil types and for this reason, it is most widely used as an understock for the grafting of ornamental clonal scion material."

*Adrian Morgan,
Snowbird Christmas Tree
Specialists in England*

"Korean Fir is the exotic of choice for our Farm. It will grow well in a wide range of soils. It seems to be somewhat resistant to the common root rot that is found in 2nd and 3rd rotation of Fraser Fir plantings. We are very satisfied with the growth, color and survival in all of the plant-

ings we have done. We hope to incorporate the Korean Fir into our growing Mail Order business in the future but we will need to educate our customers on the good characteristics of the tree. We have sold some 2'-3' potted Korean and the "white flash" on the foliage is an excellent selling point. The only drawback that we have found in the tree is the Lamas growth but that can be managed with shearing techniques. Some people have had problems with early coning but we have not experienced that with any of our plantings. We hope to be harvesting mature Koreans in 2-3 years."

*Bill & Jay Weir
Weir Tree Farms in
Colebrook, New Hampshire*

Conclusions

If you are looking for a true fir that will offer you income as a Christmas tree, ornamental, and greens material then you should incorporate Korean fir in your future plantings.

For more information about exotic conifers, subscribe to *Exotic Conifer News* by e-mailing bobwfpfarm@metrocast.net.

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Select approximate Shipping date (Note: Stock sold in the fall is custom lifted. Contact bill to set dates.)

- Mid April
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- Early May
- Mid May
- Will Notify Later

Questions?? contact Bill Asack evenings 6-8 p.m. 1-802-754-6934

Season	Seedlings	Tree Age	Price per Seedling	Qty	Total
Fall 2006/Spring 2007	Balsam Fir: Mountain Strain Vermont Seed Source	2-0	\$0.20		
Fall 2006/Spring 2007	Balsam Fir: Mountain Strain Vermont Seed Source	2-2	\$0.65		
Fall 2006/Spring 2007	Balsam Fir: Cooks Strain Vermont Seed Source	2-0	\$0.20		
Fall 2006/Spring 2007	Balsam Fir: Cooks Strain Vermont Seed Source	2-2	\$0.65		
Fall 2006/Spring 2007	Fraser Fir: Vermont Seed Source	2-0	\$0.20		
Fall 2006/Spring 2007	Fraser Fir: North Carolina Seed Source	2-0	\$0.20		
Fall 2006/Spring 2007	Balsam-Fraser Hybrids: Vermont Seed Source	2-0	\$0.20		
Fall 2006/Spring 2007	Balsam-Fraser Hybrids: Vermont Seed Source	2-2	\$0.65		
Fall 2006/Spring 2007	Canaan Fir: West Virginia Seed Source	2-0	\$0.25		

Total Seedling Cost

Terms:

Payment 25% Down, 75% payment 3 weeks before ship date

Minimum order of 100 seedlings or transplants.

All Buyers purchasing seedlings and transplants for production of products for sale on a farm, nursery or green house are exempt from Vermont sales tax. (Requires completion of state of Vermont Agriculture Sales Tax exemption Certificate form S-3A)

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Total Cost (Sum of the 3 lines above)	
Payment (amount to be charged or enclosed with form)	
Balance Due (Amount owed before ship date if any).	

Research Report: Weed management practices for fall

continued from page 9

ping pattern; otherwise a strip of unkilld weeds is left in the tree row.

When is it desirable to spray over-the-top with glyphosate and triclopyr, and how?

If brush, vines, goldenrod, asters, or other perennials are over about 18 inches tall, an over-the-top spray may be called for, but almost never, in my opin-

ion, in white pine and not at over 1 qt/A of 41% glyphosate in Douglas-fir because of potential injury.

Dormant spruces and true fir tolerate up to 2 quarts of 41% glyphosate provided the spray nozzles are held 20 inches or more above the tops of the tallest conifers.

Flat fan nozzles (such as

Teejet 8002, 8003 or 8004) are best for uniform coverage in over-the-top spraying. A broadcast over-the-top spray in the fall can then be followed by band sprays of preemergence herbicide in the spring. Fall applications of glyphosate or triclopyr are unnecessary when frost-sensitive annual weeds or yellow nutsedge dominate and woody invaders are sparse.

Killing nutsedge plants after early August is a waste of time and money because tubers are already formed and the tops will be killed by frost. Note where nutsedge occurs and deal with it in the spring!

If only scattered brush or vines are present, especially in small plantations, spot treatments may be prescribed but better yet, consider calibrated backpack sprays, walking at a constant speed and spraying at constant pressure only when problem weeds or brush are spotted. This saves herbicide (money!) and a lot of time. Of course, tractor-mounted spot spraying is also feasible.

You are always welcome to call with any Christmas tree questions at 860-683-4985, 4984 or 4977.

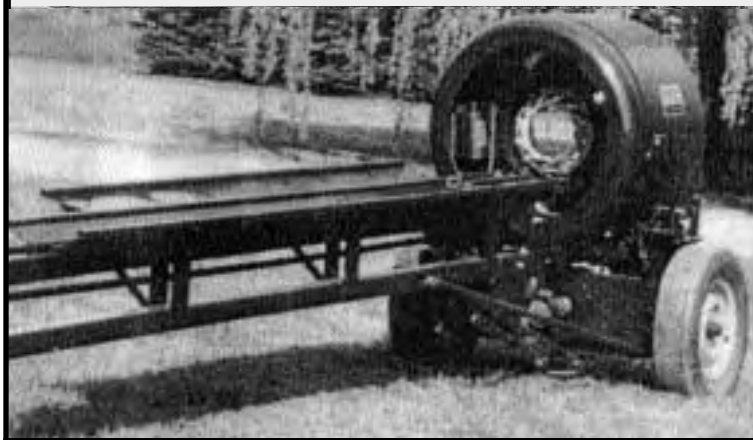
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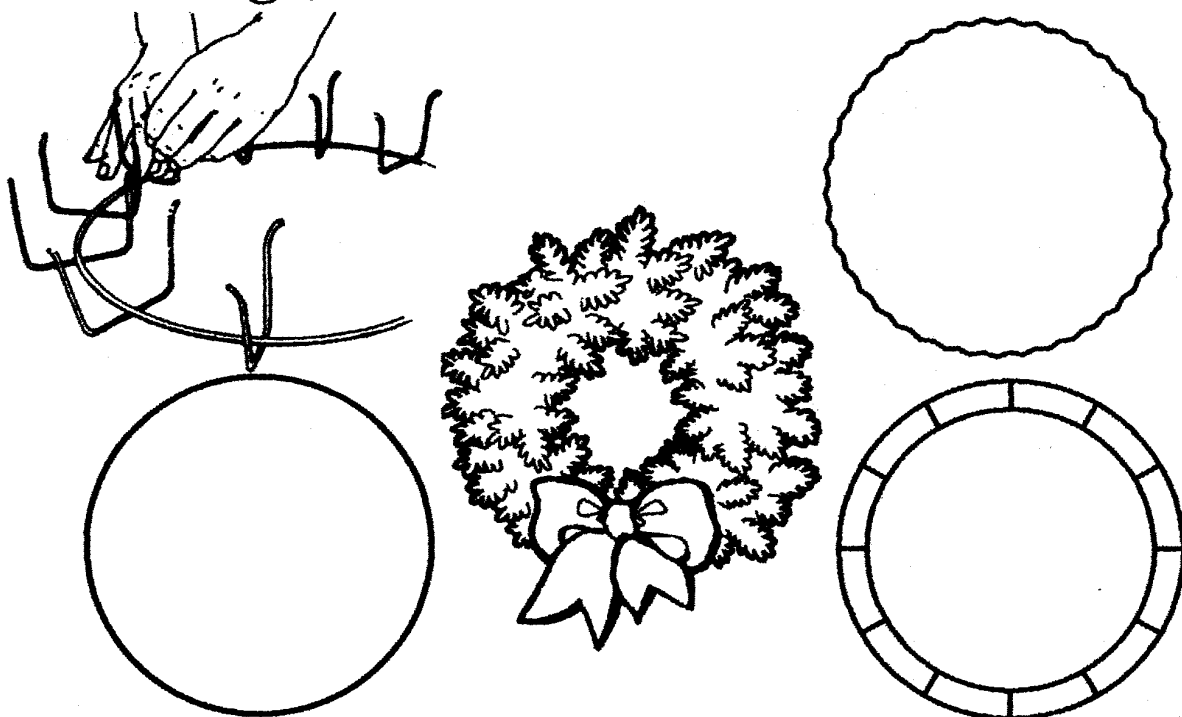
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Editor's Desk

A number of newsworthy items have crossed my desk since the last issue of *Tree Line*.

Group Insurance Discount Plan

Here's a reminder that the NHVTCTA recently negotiated a group insurance benefit package for its members with the Co-operative Insurance Companies, based in Middlebury, Vt. Co-operative Insurance has agents in both Vermont and New Hampshire. NHVTCTA members are eligible for ranging from 4% to 10% discount on their farm insurance policies, as well as on home, mini-farm and auto insurance policies.

The Web site for Co-operative Insurance is www.co-op-insurance.com.

Fair Information

Walt Rockwood kindly sent along the following report from

this summer's Champlain Valley Fair: Participation by NH-VT CTA members in the Champlain Valley Fair exhibit for 2006 was low. Four members entered trees and two members entered wreaths. "The sad part is that only one member who grows trees in the Champlain Valley area participated," says Walt Rockwood, who helped organize the exhibit.

Top scoring tree (first and Best of Show) among 6-8 foot trees was a balsam fir entered by Mary Gilbert, Gilbert Tree Farm, Williamstown, Vt. A balsam fir entered by Abigail Johnson, Johnson Christmas Tree Farm, Concord, Vt. placed second, and a Fraser fir entered by White Tree Farm, Underhill, Vt. placed third.

Tabletop trees were scored as first for a balsam fir from Redrock Farm, Chelsea, Vt. Ethan Johnson, Johnson

Christmas Tree Farm, got second with a balsam fir and his sister Jacqueline Johnson got third with a Fraser fir.

In the decorated wreath category, Redrock Farm received first and Best of Show. White Tree Farm received second, only two points behind the first place wreath.

A decorated tree donated by White Tree Farm, Underhill, Vt. served as an attention getter at the head of the exhibit. The tree was decorated by Lindsay and Abigail Johnson with NH-VT CTA decorations dating back to a National Christmas Tree Association conference in the early 1990s.

"Trading Post"

WANTED—Dave Jamieson at Mountain Mead Farm in Worcester, Vt., is looking for a used string baler. He can be reached at (802) 223-2523.



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