Christmas Trees - High Labor

1. Plant every spring
2. Shear every tree every year
3. Control weeds
5. Survive for 7 to 12 years
6. Control wildlife damage
7. Control insect and disease damage
8. Protect from fire
TREE PLANTING

Planning
Plant & Harvest Individual Trees
# TREE SPACING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPACING</th>
<th># TREES/ACRE</th>
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<tr>
<td>5 X 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 X 8</td>
<td>680</td>
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<td>6 X 10</td>
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Sandy soils are excellent
Clay soils or wet soils are poor choices
Conifers prefer acidic soils
A Year in the Life of a Christmas Tree Grower
July - August
Beacon Soils

Coland clay loam, channeled, 0 to 2 percent slope

Bemis moraine, 16 to 30 percent slopes
TREE PLANTING

Species Selection
Scotch Pine
White Pine
Balsam Fir
Fraser Fir
Canaan Fir
Douglas Fir
Order Seedlings

Michigan, Wisconsin, Minn seedling nurseries

- Bare root seedlings
- Plugs + 1
- Plugs + 2
August - September

Deciding What Size

- Bare root seedlings = $0.6
- Plugs + 1 = $1.2
- Plugs + 2 = $1.48

2 rotations from bareroot in the same time as 3 rotations of Plugs + 2 seedlings

Seedling Costs
Bareroot       plugs + 2
$1.20          $4.44

Sales
2x70=$140      3x70=$210
Site Preparation
Eliminate Perennial Vegetation: GRASS

- Herbicides
  Roundup 2 Oz/gal

- Tillage
  Soybean fields are great
  Ladino clover
  Kentucky blue grass
Planting

- Keep seedlings cold before planting
- Soak roots for 2-4 hrs prior to planting
- Trim long roots to not J Root
- Plant at proper depth
- Roots go in the ground
Planting

- Machine planting (1000’s per day)
- Hand (100’s per day)
- Spade
- Auger *

April
April - May

Fertilizing

Best before new growth emerges and ground warms up
April

Weed Control

Roundup 1 oz/gallon – no surfactant
Princept 2 oz/gallon
Pendulum 2 oz/gallon
Shearing

June - July
Starts when terminal growth exceeds 14-18”

Shear every year until marketed

Basal pruning to create handle
Terminal buds only
Douglas Fir

Canaan Fir
SHEARING TOOLS

• hand clipper
• shearing knife
• sickle trimmer
• rotary trimmer
Adjust terminal: 14-16” initially, then 8-12”

Cut at 45° angle

“Top-work” first whorl, thin if necessary
Angled cut necessary on pines
Not required on spruce or firs because of lateral buds
Power Shearing
Use wide whorl spacing for narrow taper.
CHRISTMAS TREE COLORANT

Greenzit - ~$80
2.5 gallon jug

treats 300 trees
MARKETING

- Choose and Cut
- Wholesale
- Retail Lot
Choose & Cut