

Silvertip Christmas Trees

Silvertip (*Abies magnifica* – Red Fir or Silvertip Fir) is the most rare and majestic of all Christmas Trees in the traditional German-style, with evenly spaced whorls of branches. It is a spectacular centerpiece for your holiday celebrations. Lights and ornaments are visible through the trees. The soft blue tips (silver tips) and fragrant forest incense add stately elegance to your Christmas experience.

Silvertips are only found in the Sierras and far southern Cascades at high elevations. Ours are from stands north of Truckee from 7000 to 8000ft. In late fall, Silvertips progress into a deep dormancy that protects them from dry winter winds, intense Sierra sun, and sub-zero temperatures.



That deep dormancy keeps Silvertips' incredibly fresh inside a home. Because Silvertips are slow growing, their showy silvery-white trunks have graceful taper and their branches are stout and lush. A silvertip is considered THE premium cultivated Christmas tree.



By selectively thinning young trees, dangerous fuels are reduced and healthy trees are given an advantage. The truth is, we always leave the most beautiful trees to grow. Each tree is unique. The trees we harvest are stately and beautiful in their own right.

Abies: fir

It is easy to tell a pine (“Charlie Brown”) from a fir, but it is a little more difficult to see the difference between our two native fir species: Think “perfect Christmas tree” with evenly tiered whorls of branches. The needles are single and generally upright on the branch as are the cones, like candles, not hanging like other conifers. These are fir trees.



Abies magnifica – red fir – majestic giant grows at high elevations on north and east slopes in dense stands. The new growth is blue-grey (silver). Dense needles cover the new growth almost like fur.

Abies concolor – white fir – occurs below the red fir in elevation. The needles are often relatively flat on more slender and less dense branches than on red fir. It is brittle when cold. This is the most commonly harvested wild-cut Christmas tree.

Fresh Cut and Living Potted Christmas Trees

Our Cut Christmas Trees are of the highest quality available. We wait until we have had significant cold and often snow before driving miles through the woods and hiking hills through thick brush and snow to cut the **Silvertip and White Fir**. Our tree selection process improves our USDA forest health by reducing competition and fuel around the remaining "leave" trees.

Make a fresh cut minutes before putting in a stand and NEVER, EVER let the water level drop to the cut. Your tree will lose its ability to draw water and quickly dry-up.

Fresh Cut Tree Types

Silvertip, Red Fir, *Abies magnifica*: Local Native with very strong open and symmetrical layered branching. Strong fragrance. Silver-blue tips on green foliage. Excellent needle retention. Easy to decorate. You can appreciate lights and ornaments on the opposite side of the tree. Best tree for windows with a view as they allow light to easily pass through. Beautifully when even sparsely decorated.

Concolor, White Fir, *Abies concolor*: Local native, very similar to Silvertip. Branches strong, often with many internodal branches. Green / Blue-green longer softer needles. Citrus-like fragrance. Excellent needle retention. Easy to decorate. Lights and ornaments visible through the tree.

Noble Fir, *Abies procera*: From the Cascades and the Coast Range CA to WA and occasionally up to treeline. Noble Fir are Intensively managed and carefully hedged with machettes to a dense symmetrical taper and neat shape. Very full, slightly layered. Strong branches. Excellent fragrance. Rich green needle color. Superior needle retention. Holds the many ornaments, and you get a glimpse of trunk.

Living Potted Tree Types

Colorado Blue Spruce (the state tree of Utah), *Picea pungens*: Trees in the wild Rockies vary from green to bright silvery-blue. Baby Blue Blue Spruce is a very blue variety grown from seed. Ours have been managed and pruned to produce the compact Christmas Tree shape you see but they can grow 18"-24" (or more) each season easily when planted correctly and fertilized regularly.

Black Hills White Spruce, *Picea glauca var. densata*: This geographical variety of the widespread northern white spruce tends to be dense and have great tolerance of drying winter winds. The foliage is greener than blue spruce with only the slightest waxy coating. In both species the blue color is a protective wax produced on the needles that helps prevent sun damage and moisture loss. Black Hills spruce is one of the best trees for surviving in a container.

Kellogg's compost special offer with each purchase of a live tree:

One 2cf bag of Gromulch and 1 lb Biosol fertilizer for 7.99

Large saucers for under live trees \$4-\$15 ea.

Or use a sledding saucer we sell for \$18 for larger trees... durable, reusable, fun.