

# MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

Aug. 24-Sept. 4, 2023

## Christmas Trees

Superintendent..... Kim Ustruck, St. Paul, MN

Board Member..... Gordy Toenges, Alden, MN

### Christmas Tree Rules.

1. **Eligibility.**
  - A. **Classes 1-11.** Limited to professional Christmas tree growers.
  - B. **Classes 12-16.** Open to anyone.
  
2. **Entries.**
  - A. **Entry deadline.** Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.
  - B. Exhibitors are allowed up to two entries per class in classes 1-11 but no individual may exhibit more than 10 trees total in those classes.
  - C. Exhibitors are allowed only one entry per class in classes 12-16.
  - D. Only registered trees will be eligible for exhibit. Requests to switch classes after registration has closed may be accepted at the discretion of the competition department and the superintendent.
  
3. **Exhibits.** All exhibits in classes 1-11 must have been grown in Minnesota.
  - A. All trees shall be cut from their roots.
  - B. Trees shall be placed in water holding stands provided by the State Fair. The stand will not be considered by the judges.
  - C. Artificial coloring is prohibited in classes 1-11.
  - D. The height of the tree shall be measured from the butt of the trunk to the tip of the leader. The width of the tree shall be measured from branch tip to branch tip at the widest part of the tree.
  - E. Exhibit tags shall be provided by the State Fair. These tags must be properly filled out and securely affixed to the tree at eye level of any tree exhibited or to the bottom of the wreath ring of any wreath exhibited. Any entry without a registration tag shall be eliminated from the competition.
  - F. It shall be the responsibility of each exhibitor to provide their own tree or greens in classes 12-16. If you do not actively grow Christmas Trees, you may contact Kim Ustruck at kimustruck@comcast.net for assistance. If decorating a tree, arrangements must be made for the tree to arrive Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023, and decorated on that day between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
    1. The State Fair is not responsible for missing or broken ornaments/decorations.
  - G. Wreaths (classes 14-15) must be made of natural conifer greens affixed on a 12 inch ring. All wreaths must have a hanger loop at the top of the wreath firmly affixed to the ring.
  - H. Exhibits entered in Other Decorations (class 16) shall be limited to table centerpieces, hanging baskets and planters/pots. All exhibits entered in this class are expected to include decorations and natural greens.
  - I. State Fair is not obligated to display all entries submitted. Every effort shall be made to display all entries submitted according to space available. At least one entry per exhibitor shall be displayed.
  
4. **Exhibit delivery and pick-up.**
  - A. **Delivery date and time.** All exhibits must be delivered to the Ag-Hort building Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with staging completed by 5 p.m.
  - B. **Return of exhibits.** Decorations will be carefully removed after the building closes on Labor Day, and may be picked up the following day (Tuesday) between 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Items not picked up during this time will be disposed of.
  
5. **Judging.** Judges shall place only those entries worthy of an award. The decision of the judges is final.
  - A. **Grand and Reserve Grand Champion.** The grand champion will be awarded to the best of show in classes 1-11. The reserve grand champion will be awarded to the runner up from classes 1-11.
  - B. **Sweepstakes.** Sweepstakes winner will be awarded based on the most first place finishes in classes 1-11. In case of a tie, second places shall be considered, etc., until a winner is declared.

**Judging Criteria - Christmas Trees**

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Leader.....	10
Taper.....	10
<i>Pine 40%-90%, Fir and Spruce 40%-70%</i>	
Color/Foliage.....	20
<i>natural, normal</i>	
Trunk.....	10
Overall appearance.....	50
<i>overall general effect and appearance of tree</i>	
	<b>100</b>

**Judging Criteria - Decorated Trees, Wreaths and Other Decorations**

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Overall effect.....	30
<i>The item is visually appealing and interesting.</i>	
Craftsmanship.....	25
<i>The construction and when applicable, decoration of the entry should exhibit good technique. Adherence to the principles of design, including proportion, balance, rhythm, and dominance.</i>	
Proportion.....	10
<i>Determined by the size of the arrangement, and the materials used in the arrangement.</i>	
Balance.....	10
<i>Refers to equality in weight, both physical and visual. Physical balance is the stability of plant materials with a container. Visual balance is the perception of equal weight on both sides of the central axis. Visual balance may be symmetrical or asymmetrical.</i>	
Originality.....	25
<i>Creative use of material and design.</i>	
	<b>100</b>

## Division 1: Christmas Trees

### Premiums for Christmas Trees

Christmas Trees (unless otherwise listed)

\$50 \$40 \$30 \$20 \$10

Grand and Reserve Champion Christmas Tree

\$50 \$25

### Class Listing for Christmas Trees

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#### Pines

- 1 Norway Pine, 6 to 8 1/2 feet
  - 2 Scotch Pine, 6 to 8 1/2 feet
  - 3 White Pine, 6 to 8 1/2 feet
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#### Firs

- 4 Balsam Fir, 6 to 8 1/2 feet
  - 5 Fraser Fir, 6 to 8 1/2 feet
  - 6 Canaan Fir, 6 to 8 1/2 feet
  - 7 Korean Fir, 6 to 8 1/2 feet
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#### Spruces

- 8 Meyer Spruce, 6 to 8 1/2 feet
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#### Miscellaneous

- 9 Victorian Style Fir, 6 to 8 1/2 feet  
*Any fir tree with open style trimming.*
  - 10 Any other species, 6 to 8 1/2 feet  
*Including hybrids (not Black Hills or Colorado Spruce).*
  - 11 Any species, 5 1/2 feet and under  
*Any species from classes 1-10. Trees in this category may be chosen to be decorated during the State Fair.*
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#### Decorated Trees

- 12 Traditionally decorated tree, 6 to 8 1/2 feet
  - 13 Contemporary decorated tree, 6 to 8 1/2 feet
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#### Wreaths

- 14 Decorated wreaths
  - 15 Undecorated wreaths
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#### Other Decorations

- 16 Other decorations  
*Table centerpieces, hanging baskets, planters/pots only*
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#### Champions

- 18 Grand and Reserve Champion Christmas Tree  
*Grand Champion receives ribbon and tray; Reserve Grand Champion receives a ribbon.*
- 19 Christmas Tree Sweepstakes  
*Ribbon.*