

Agri-Retail Christmas Tree Sales



Most Protection

1. Producer harvests, bales or balls and burlaps, and loads trees for customer.
2. Producer harvests some trees, bales or balls and burlaps, and loads trees for customer; customer can select and cut their own trees with a hand saw with supervision; tree cart available for customer's use.
3. Producer harvests some trees by cutting or digging; customer can select and cut a tree by hand with no supervision; directions and safety rules posted/verbally presented; tree cart available for customer's use.
4. Producer supplies customer with hand saw; verbal directions to tree site only; no tree cart provided for customer's use.
5. Producer supplies customer with chain saw or axe; verbal directions to tree sites only; no tree cart provided for customer's use.

Least Protection *(over)*

Reminders

Every customer may not be able to use a hand saw, an axe, or a chain saw safely.

Dusk and after dark sales increase the risk for falls in areas of uneven footing.

Carts to haul trees to check-out areas can prevent back injuries.

Every customer may not be able to lift a balled and burlapped (B and B) tree.

Personal Protective Equipment



Laws, Regulations, Standards, and Guidelines:

Laws, regulations, standards, and guidelines are constantly being updated and revised. Be sure to check the latest version of any document listed below. Be aware that new laws, regulations, standards, and guidelines on this topic may be generated at any time.

Pennsylvania Recreational Use Statute, PS 477-1 Title 68, Real and Personal Property, Chapter 11, Use of Property.

Other:

Warning signs and directional signs (Figure 1) posted to alert consumers of the Christmas tree market's rules and regulations reduce risk.

Pick your own harvesting may involve digging of live trees. Safety concerns involve shovels, digging bars, and picks as potential hazards, as well as back injuries.

Some state's have hold harmless clauses for protection of landowners from liability involving others using the land.

It is possible for an inexperienced person to be injured with a hand saw.

Ruts in the ground, stumps from cut trees, and holes left from dug trees (Figure 2) increase risk of tripping and falling. Some of the holes can be large. It is a sound practice to fill these areas or to remove the stumps before the sales period when customers will arrive.

Children should be supervised by their parents during the entire tree buying experience.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.