

REDROCK FARM AND NURSERY NEWS

October 2001

It doesn't seem possible that we have been shipping Christmas trees to customers across the USA since 1992. We shipped only a few trees that year. This year we hope to cut and ship at least 400 trees.

Change is coming to Redrock Farm. We will turn the farm over to eldest son Richard and his wife Stephanie for the 2003 season — after Richard retires from the Navy. We'll retire (again) to a log home on adjoining property and be "consultants" as needed. As of this mailing Richard is on a ship that is part of the USS Enterprise Task Force "somewhere east of here."

An order form for 2001 is enclosed but we're happy to receive orders by phone or e-mail. ***Web address and phone numbers are on the Order Form***

Bragging time

A Redrock Farm fir won Best of Show in competition at our Tunbridge World's Fair . We're also proud that Debbie Upham, our wreath decorator, took second place for her decorated wreath.

A change in shipping

We will ship trees and wreaths by Federal Express Ground for 2001. Although they add a \$5 surcharge for a box longer than 60 inches, they don't make an added surcharge for the same box. We are able to reduce shipping cost per tree \$1 to \$2.50 in Zones 2-4 and \$3.50 to \$4 in Zones 5-8.

Same high quality wreath

Our wreaths will be the same high-quality, double-faced that we supplied in 2000. We'll again put them in plastic bags to help retain freshness. And we'll do special requests for things like plaid ribbon, cones only, etc.

The 5-foot tree

Several customers made a shift from a 6.5- to 7-foot tree to a 5-foot tree last year and found the tree to be too short. When we got calls about the "short tree" we explained that a 5-foot tree is the tallest we put in a 5-foot box. Trees taller than 5 feet were subject to OS-1 and OS-2 oversize charges by UPS. And that's why the 5-foot tree cost less to ship.

Extra balsam fir brush with your tree.

More than half our customers requested some balsam fir brush added to the tree box in 2000. We'll continue to offer to add a small amount of brush in 2001. Check "Please add some balsam fir brush" on the order form.

Handles and leaders

The tree trunk below where the branches start is called the handle. We leave at least a 9-inch handle on the 6- to 7-foot trees to assure they'll fit in most tree stands. The tip of the tree is called the leader. We leave a leader that matches the taper of the tree. That leader is usually 8 to 10 inches. We can change the length of handle and leader to fit your needs. Just add a note to the margin of your order form.

Tree removal bag

Check "Please add a tree removal bag" on your order form, and we'll put a complimentary tree removal bag in your tree's box. The large, white, plastic bag can serve as a tree skirt (hides the tree stand) and is later pulled up around the tree for a needle-free exit.

Over please

Be aware of delivery risk: California inspection of trees and wreaths

The California Department of Agriculture inspects trees and wreaths before delivery. That may hold up delivery. If they find something they consider dangerous to California agriculture, they seize the tree or wreath and either destroy it or return it to us. We offer a full refund if your tree or wreath is seized.

At our end we have trees inspected by an Entomologist of the Vermont Department of Agriculture. In addition we recheck each tree or wreath carefully during packing. Nevertheless, a tree destined for a California customer was seized last season. The report from that Department of Agriculture was that they found Balsam fir gall midge. We didn't dispute that our inspections could have missed the galls on the needles but we did dispute the seizure because the galls could not have been viable - and presented no danger to California firs.

www.Christmastrees.net

The Redrock Farm web site contains a few photos to give you an idea of what we look like.

We take this opportunity to wish good friends and customers a Happy Holiday Season and a wonderful New Year.

WaltRockwood and Jean Peterson

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OUR 10TH YEAR OF SHIPPING TREES