

Christmas Trees.

A Growers Guide

An introduction to the management of the Christmas Tree crop.



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Christmas trees can be a profitable crop - but the management requirements are considerable and should not be under-estimated. The public are increasingly demanding good shape and colour of trees, and therefore only well managed first quality trees will provide the desired returns. This outline guidance is aimed at assisting the grower to assess the market, select a suitable site and soil type, and follow a programme to produce, and profitably sell, a maximum number of quality first trees.

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It is a common misconception that Christmas trees may be a useful way of filling a patch of land which is unsuitable for other crops due to factors such as low fertility, poor drainage or soil structure. But nothing could be further from the truth. Christmas trees are potentially a high value crop which need the best land plus the skill and dedication of the grower if the consumer demand for high quality trees is to be met.



This booklet aims to provide basic guidance on developing a Christmas tree enterprise and provides guidance on:

- * Planning
- * Shaping and feeding the trees
- * Pest & weed control
- * Harvesting and sales.

The intention has been to produce this guidance in a concise form - so some questions will inevitably be unanswered. The best way to fill in these gaps is to join the British Christmas Tree Growers Association, if in the UK, or the Irish Christmas Tree Growers for those in Ireland. Both these organisations provide help and guidance through open days on plantations managed by members where advice is freely and readily given.

It should be noted that the use of pesticides is strongly regulated, and subject to constant revision. Recognising that this will lead to changes in the information provided in this booklet, updates can be found on the website <www.ruralservices.info>.

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