

The Telegraph

Christmas

9 of the best real Christmas trees and where to buy them

Getting the right Christmas tree for your home is top of the holiday season list for many families. Here's a breakdown of the best real ones

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Christmas wouldn't quite be the same without the aesthetic that comes along with it. Sparkling lights and Christmas trees with red, green and gold baubles.

Part of the festive fun is decorating your home in a way that perfectly embodies who you are, but finding the right real Christmas tree-and picking the best shape for your home-takes a lot of consideration.

The traditional cut Christmas tree in Britain has been the Norway spruce for decades, but in recent years, sales of 'non-drop' varieties, such as the Nordmann fir, Fraser fir and blue spruce have started to overtake the Norway spruce.

'Non-drop' Christmas trees are best if you have children, and each tree has its own individual qualities that make it a favourable option.

Regardless of which one you choose, provided the tree is well looked after, your Christmas tree should survive for more than four weeks, according to the [British Christmas Tree Growers Association](#).

Here's our guide to the best real Christmas trees available, what makes them desirable and how to make them last.

Best real Christmas trees

1. Norway Spruce

The Norway spruce has been the traditional British Christmas tree since the Victorian era thanks to Queen Victoria's husband Prince Albert, who introduced the German custom of decorating a spruce tree to England in the early 18th century.

The bright green, bushy Norway spruce has a rich pine scent, but also leaves behind spiky needle-like leaves meaning it's not very child friendly and requires maintenance. If you're keen on this variety, wait until later in December, make sure you water it regularly and try to keep it away from radiators. A good-value outdoor option, too.

Buy yours from [Tree Shop](#), [Ashridge Nurseries](#) or [Trees to Plants](#)

2. Nordmann fir

The Nordmann fir is one of the most popular Christmas trees in the UK. The trees have a reliably symmetrical shape with a wide base and dark green, broad needles.

They are classed as a 'non-drop' Christmas tree as they retain their needles for considerably longer than traditional Christmas trees. Additionally, the foliage is soft and glossy meaning it is fairly child-friendly.

The Nordmann fir is a pretty low-maintenance indoor option and its branching patterns will ensure your Christmas decorations look their best.

Buy yours from [Christmas Trees Delivered \(London\)](#), [Send Me A Christmas Tree](#), [Pines and Needles](#), [King & Co](#) or [Paramount Plants](#)

3. Blue spruce

Despite being at its bluest in spring, the needles of this tree have a lovely silver-blue tinge during the Christmas period. Much like the Norway spruce, it has sharp needles, though it does hold its needles well.

Probably not the most child or pet-friendly tree, its popularity comes from the fact its needles are a little longer than the Norway spruce. It also generally has a good symmetrical form.

Buy yours from [Jackson's Nurseries](#) or [Ornamental Trees](#)

4. Fraser fir

The Fraser fir is the more popular choice in the US, and also has a lovely aromatic fragrance. It has a more narrow base – making it ideal for tight spaces.

It is similar to the Norway spruce by having firm branches, great for holding your heavy baubles, and also to the Nordmann fir, by holding its needles well.

Buy yours from [Send Me A Christmas Tree](#) or [Scottish Christmas Trees](#)

5. Serbian spruce

Similar to the Norway spruce, but with slightly better needle retention. These trees have an attractive blue underside to the needles and have a lovely slender shape making them suited to smaller homes or corridors.

They're increasingly popular in central Europe and look great with simpler decorations or just a string of pretty lights.

It's best to buy this tree in mid-late December to reduce the amount of needle drop.

Buy yours from [Paramount Plants](#) or [Send Me A Christmas Tree](#)

6. Douglas fir

The Douglas fir has soft, dark green or blue-green needles. The tree is popular for its good needle retention and a lovely citrus fragrance.

If you're looking to make a statement, this tree is for you as they grow extremely large. It's also worth testing out how well it holds your ornaments before you buy (just bring one with you).

Buy yours from the [Tree Shop](#) or [Trees Online](#)

7. Lodgepole pine

The Lodgepole is a bushy tree making it a very attractive choice for a Christmas tree. And, it has that festive pine scent that instantly reminds you of Christmas.

This tree's straight stems were supposedly once used by Native Americans as the central pole for their wigwams. It has yellowy-green needles and is very good for needle retention.

Buy yours from [Alba Trees](#) or [Buy Trees Online](#)

8. Noble fir

This fir has attractive grey-green needles that tilt upwards and very strong branches, which makes it a superb choice for hanging heavy decorations.

They are native of the forests of Washington and Oregon and were introduced into Britain in 1830. Whilst their needle retention is among the best, this tree can be hard to find in the UK (and therefore more expensive).

Buy yours from [Christmas Trees Delivered](#)

9. Scots pine

Slightly less common, the Scots pine (Scotland's national tree) is a native tree with bright, blue-green foliage and a lovely fragrance.

The needles are quite sharp, but they have excellent retention – even when dry. The branches are known for being strong if you're planning on lots of decorations.

Buy yours from [Beechwood Nurseries](#) or [Eden Christmas Trees](#)

How to make your real Christmas tree last

- Keep it outside or in a cool place for as long as possible before moving it inside.
- When you're ready to decorate it, chop a couple of centimetres off the stump and put it in water straightaway.
- Water it every day-they drink lots-and try to position it away from radiators and open fires. Christmas trees don't like heat.
- Always turn your Christmas tree lights off before watering and going to bed.

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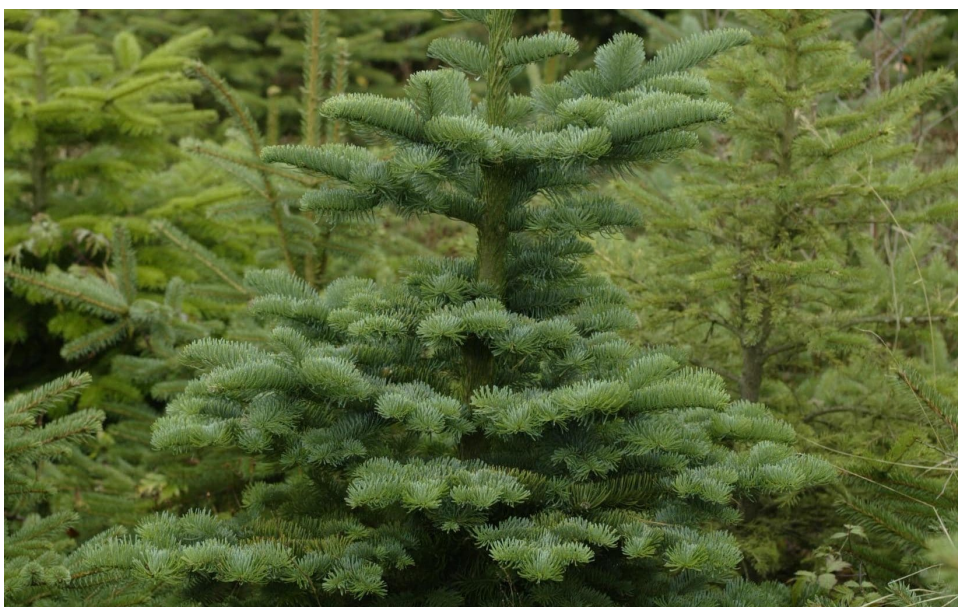


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