



# Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

## Johnson's Garden Talk

Nov/Dec 2004



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## Art-ti-fi-cial *adj.* 1. Not natural.

Sallie Strole, Johnson's East

That definition used to suit manufactured Christmas trees to a tee. Artificial Christmas trees not only did not look real, they didn't look particularly good. They were variations of a Charlie Brown tree that took an engineering degree to assemble.

Well, they've come a long way since then. Today's trees look like firs, pines, spruce, even cedars. And they are easy to put up. With hinged branches you just fold them down, then fold them back up for storage. This year most of our trees are prelit so you don't even have to put on lights and the lights fold right up with the branches. There are trees ranging from 9 inches to 9 ft., so whatever use you have in mind ... from a focal point in a great room; to a table top decoration; to a background for that special piece; or an outdoor container ... we have a tree to fill your needs.

Some of these trees are so good looking you almost hesitate to put ornaments on them. My favorites are the Snow Crystal Pine and the several sizes of Snowy Alpines. These trees are beautiful with even the simplest of ornaments. Last year we decorated one with just red birds and berries and it attracted as much attention as our most elaborate trees. For a blue spruce appearance look for the Blue/Green Balsam or White Fir. One style of White Fir is prelit with clear lights and also with sets of flicker flame lights. For a more rustic feel check out the Stevens Mixed Pine, Rocky Mountain or the Tahoe. These trees feature either mixed greenery or pine cones which would be perfect in a casual family room or at the cabin. To showcase those special ornaments, chose an Alaskan or Highland Fir. Both of these have dark green needles and strong branches. These are our favorites to decorate because everything looks good on them.

Most of our trees come from two established companies: Barcana and Santa's Own. Both of these firms have a long history of excellence with warranties of 10 to 25 years on the trees and 2 to 3 years on the lights.

Another definition of artificial is "made by man in imitation of nature" and that is more appropriate nowadays. These trees look great! The only things missing are the scent and the allergens. You might miss the scent, but you certainly won't miss the allergic reaction family members may have to a real tree ... or the needles in the carpet ... or the prickly task of undecorating a dry tree. Come and take a stroll through our "forest" and choose the perfect tree to carry on your Christmas traditions. ■