

# Renew, Reduce, Recycle

## Real Christmas trees reduce the amount of waste in landfills

Because they are 100% biodegradable, real trees will naturally go back to earth. Real trees don't end up in landfills - and that reduces waste!



**Mulch in the garden:** Once a Christmas tree and its branches are chipped, the mulch can be used in peoples' gardens to reduce weeds and hold moisture in the soil and plants' roots.



**Mulch on hiking trails:** Some communities use chipped Christmas trees to make a natural walking path material that fits both the environment and the needs of hikers.



**Soil erosion barriers:** Whole Christmas trees can make an effective sand and soil erosion barriers, especially for lake and river shoreline stabilization/

**Fish feeders:** Sunken into fish ponds, recycled Christmas trees make an excellent refuge and feeding area for fish.

**Bird feeders:** Place your Christmas tree in the backyard and use it as a bird feeder and sanctuary. Fresh orange slices or strung popcorn will attract the birds and they can sit in the branches for shelter. After about a year, the branches will become brittle and you can chip the tree in a chipper.

## Real Christmas trees are completely renewable

For every one Christmas tree that is cut down, Christmas tree farmers plant two or three more the following spring.

It takes about 7 to 10 years for a Christmas tree to be big enough to be harvested. It can take as long as 15 years for a Christmas tree to reach a height of 6 or 7 feet.

While Christmas trees are growing in farmers' fields, they provide for the cycle of life. Trees clean the air we breathe by taking in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen.

Once a Christmas tree has adorned a home, it can be chipped and used as a source of fuel for heating houses and businesses. The ashes can be spread in fields for fertilizer; and the cycle of life starts all over again.



## Recycle

**Curb-side pick-up for recycling** - most areas will collect trees during their regular pickup schedules on the two weeks following Christmas. Be sure to remove all of your ornaments, garlands and lights first!

**Take your tree to a drop-off center** - most counties have free drop-off locations. There are over 4000 tree recycling programs in the United States today.

**Tree mulching programs** - tree mulching programs are a fast-growing trend in communities throughout the nation. Check with your local department of public works for information. They chip and shred the trees, then make the mulch available for use in your garden.

