

# Tips for Selecting a Dug Christmas Tree

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Planning a visit to Hutton-Loyd to find that perfect tree? Fantastic! Truly, we are honored. We have compiled the tips below to make the trip, and tree you get from it, more enjoyable for you.

## Before you leave home

- For a dug tree, **pick the spot in your yard where you want to plant your tree.**
  - Take special care to ensure that there are no overhead obstructions like power lines.
  - If you intend to let the tree grow to full size, beware any sidewalks, driveways, buildings, etc. within 20 feet. The tree's roots may eventually crack or deform them, and they in turn will impede the growth of the tree.
- **Consider digging the hole now.** It will be easier than after Christmas when the ground might be frozen. However, if you dig the hole now, line it with straw, leaves, or something similar to keep it from freezing. Also, mark it so no one carelessly falls in it and sues you (seriously).
- **Pick out the spot in your home where you want to place your tree.** Trees look much smaller in the field where there is no ceiling, so determine exactly how tall of a tree you need beforehand. Perhaps find this height on your body so when you get to the fields and realize you forgot your tape measure, it won't be an issue. Remember to **factor in**
  - **Height added by the star, angel, shrunken head, or whatever else you want to put on top**
  - **Height added by a dug tree's root ball** (~1/4 the height of the tree)
  - **Space you want between tree and ceiling** (probably 12" or so)
- Example: uh-oh this may require some algebra. Oh well, we could all probably use a review. Pretend you have 10' ceilings, possess an 8" (0.75') star, and want 12" (1') of space between star and ceiling. Let  $h$  be the height of the tree. Okay here goes...

$$h + 0.75' + 1' + h/4 = 10'$$

$$5h/4 = 8.25'$$

$$h = (4/5)(8.25') = (0.8)(8.25') = 6.6'$$

So you would need a 6.6' (6' 7") dug Christmas tree.

- **Consider the space you have for the width of the tree.** Most trees are 80% as wide as they are tall. So if your ceiling is tall enough for a 10' tree, but the tree must squeeze between a couch and wall 6' apart, you will probably have to go with a 7' instead of a 10' tree.
- **Research the different characteristics of the trees we offer** on our [website](#), **bearing in mind:**
  - The type of **ornaments and lights you want to put on the tree.** Heavier ornaments require trees with stiffer branches.
  - **How likely you are, in all truthfulness, to keep the tree watered.** If Rover loves nothing more than to drink from the tree stand, pick a tree that won't lose as many needles when it dries out.
  - **What fragrance strength you desire.** If you or your guests have allergies to pine resin, go for a less fragrant tree like White Pine.
  - **The decorators.** If your little ones will be helping to decorate, prickly needles may be ill-advised.

## Once in the fields

- **Look for trees that fit your height and width criteria.**
- **Give each tree you like a firm shake.** If it sprinkles needles, don't worry. If it rains them, pick another.