

### Buyers Becoming More Selective

Warrsburg — Buyers of family tree are becoming choosy on quality, a report from the Penna. Department of Agriculture said this week. Wholesalers are aware of increasing demand for top

grade trees and are doing something about it, according to comments made by growers to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service in the State Department of Agriculture.

Pennsylvania leads the nation in production or plantation-grown Christmas trees, which usually are well-branched and symmetrical.

However, a number of growers report shortages in their stocks of top quality trees. On the other hand,

there are a great many poor quality trees which are definitely in the surplus category.

As opposed to good quality, many buyers are purchasing a few cull trees only to fill in orders for "price" buyers and to use for contrast purposes in the retail sales yards. However, buyer activity is being stepped up as evidence by increasing frequency of newspaper inquiries and contacts with the growers.

Wholesale Christmas tree levels during the last half of October were mostly steady to slightly lower. Sales activity during the period was moderately stronger than in the last half of September.

#### SHOPPING TIP

Learn the layout of the store where you do your food shopping, advises Catherine Love, Penn State extension consumer economics specialist. When you understand the methods used to display food products, you can develop a personal traffic pattern which reduces the total shopping time. But don't give up the shopping list—it can help you manage the food dollar wisely. Arrange the items on your shopping list in the order you'll follow in the store

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### Tractor Tips Fighting The Cold Weather War

Running your tractor this winter? If you want to avoid starting trouble, better remember, then, that as temperatures plunge downward, starting requirements rise — due to a thickening of the various lubricating oils and greases used, which makes it harder for the parts in the engine to move.

Agriculture engineers suggest that you keep in mind too that the colder the weather, the less efficient the tractor's battery becomes — at zero degrees, for example, the battery is only about 60-percent as efficient as it is during normal summer months.

Following is a list of tips which will keep voltage demands on your tractor's battery down during the vulnerable period when the battery loses much of its punch:

1. **Transmission:** To lessen the load on the starter, release manual shift transmissions by depressing the clutch pedal; place automatic transmissions in "neutral" before attempting to start the engine.

2. **Electrical Accessories:** Shut off lights, and other electrical accessories if the tractor has them before attempting to start the engine. This will assure maximum voltage available for both the starter motor and the ignition system.

3. **Choking:** Always close the choke valve before starting the engine. And, incidentally, if you have a truck or car equipped with an automatic choke, be sure to set it in the "on" position by depressing the accelerator before starting. (Many cold weather starting failures are due entirely to this oversight.)

4. **Pumping the Accelerator**  
An additional one or two pumps on the accelerator pedal will dump raw gasoline into the intake manifold and help get enough vaporized fuel into the cylinders during very cold weather.

5. **Throttle Setting:** When the starter is energized, the throttle should be about half way down to get enough air rushing through the manifold to pick up the fuel and carry it into the cylinders.

6. **Starter Motor:** Energize the starter at relatively short intervals. Avoid grinding away or you may overheat the starter motor and cause excessive drain on the battery.

7. **Shut-Off:** Place transmission in "neutral" and run engine at fast idle. When the switch is off, depress accelerator to "flood" the engine. This will insure a supply of gasoline in the cylinders for the next start.

Agriculture engineers also advise a complete check of the tractor's ignition system and spark plugs before the first cold snap hits — pointing to the fact that a weak ignition coil, defective distributor points or worn spark plugs can kick starting voltage requirements way up. And, of course, if battery voltage is too low to meet these increased demands, the engine won't start.

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