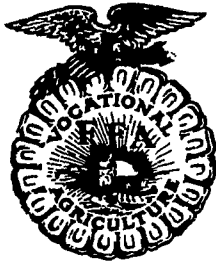


**From Local Ag Teachers:**



# Thoughts in Passing



The article for this week was prepared by Arba Henry, teacher of agriculture at Solanco High School.

**Christmas Tree Buying Tips**

Today, selecting the perfect Christmas tree is one of the highlights of many families' preholiday preparations. Choosing a tree that is "just right" for you will be easier if you know what species you are looking for, the different features that indicate a good tree, and how to select and maintain freshness.

In selecting just the right tree for decorating, most people look for a tree that is healthy, free from damage, and well-trimmed.

They generally want a tree that tapers gently from a full bottom and has an ample number of branches for hanging ornaments.

There are many differences in the kind of tree one buys. The Norway, White, and Blue Spruces are very popular trees. The needles are short and stiff. These are the first trees to lose needles. There is a one week to 10

day limit of keeping time indoors.

The pines are probably the most popular trees. The Norway, White and Blue Spruces are very popular trees. The needles are short and stiff. These are the first trees to lose needles. There is a one week to 10 day limit of keeping time indoors.

The pines are probably the most popular trees. The needles are in bundles of two and five with a length needle of one to five inches. Needle retention is best on pines.



Arba Henry

A few simple procedures can make the selection of a tree easier.

1. Determine in your home where you will display your tree. This will tell you the height needed and whether all four sides must be suitable for display.

2. Select a tree that is right height for space chosen.

3. Freshness is the important key. Run your fingers down a branch - the needles should adhere to each twig.

4. Give the tree a good shake before you buy it. If too many needles fall off, you'll know what you don't want.

5. Select one which has good color, springy branches, and symmetrical shape.

If you buy a tree several days before decorating it, set the tree outdoors, out of wind, but exposed to rain or snow and in a bucket of water. When you bring the tree inside, saw off an inch or more of the butt and stand it in water. An eight foot tree will take up to one quart of water in 24 hours.

Following these selection and care measures should insure an attractive tree that stays fresh indoors for more than a week and a holiday season free from Christmas tree mishaps.

## Consumers Need to Know

by LEE LANDIS

If we run out of energy fuels, our creature comforts will be curtailed sharply. So, alert homemakers are checking every nook and corner of the house for ways to conserve energy this winter.

Since insulation is the number one means of keeping heat in—or out—it's wise to start at the top of the house and work down when checking on insulation. Homes that are more than 15 years old are often not adequately insulated.

According to the National Bureau of Standards, a ceiling should have six inches of insulation, walls about four inches, and floors about two inches.

Insulating your roof can save up to 90 per cent of heat loss; insulated walls can save up to 60 per cent, and insulated floors up to 70 per cent.

Storm windows and doors of wood or aluminum also reduce heat loss by as much as 50 per cent. In some areas of the country, homemakers leave storm windows on all windows the year around except for one or two needed for ventilation in hot weather. It reduces air conditioning costs.

Other vital areas to check include your heating plant: Does it operate efficiently? Has a qualified service man inspected it recently?

Be sure any cracks around windows and doors are sealed. Close dampers on fireplaces when not in use. Insulate hot water pipes that may pass through cold spaces. Close off rooms that are not used regularly.

Double check to see that radiator covers do not trap heat or that furniture is not arranged to block the flow of heat. Incidentally, a layer of aluminum foil between a radiator and a cold wall will reflect heat back into a room.

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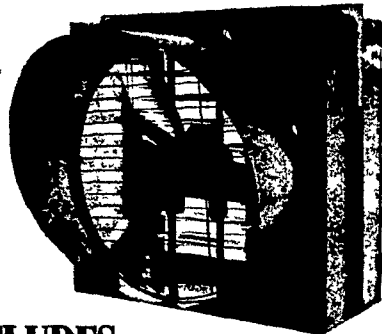
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- 3 Totally enclosed buildings prevent the loss of feed to winds, wild birds and animals.
- 4 The grower has better control over diseases because they can be discovered easier and earlier, and because more thorough medication is possible.
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