

For many city folk a visit to a choose-and-cut operation...

greens or blue-greens that are in demand. Such problems leave something to the ingenuity and inventiveness of the grower as witness the action of some Scots-pine producers in spray-painting their trees to achieve the desired shade of green.

Standards

Official Christmas tree-grading standards, the adoption of which is optional to growers, are established for Ontario, New Brunswick and Quebec. In each of these provinces, three grades are assigned according to a tree's degree of excellence in such features as taper, density, freshness and freedom from damage.

A time to reap

The saw, rather than the axe, is the preferred tool for cutting Christmas trees. Hand bow saws, lightweight chain saws, and the one-man power circular saw attached to the end of a boom are all used. Chain saws are popular although considerable back bending is required by the operator. The circular saw solves that problem, but it is sometimes difficult to control when foliage blocks the operator's view and he fails to place the saw guide firmly against the stem.

For ease and speed of handling, protection against breakage, and particularly for space-saving in transit, growers usually compress their trees by some type of baling operation before shipping them any distance. Hand-tied, multi-tree bales may be used, but individual trees may also be machine-tied with twine or machine-wrapped in a plastic net stocking.



...is a happy Christmas ritual.

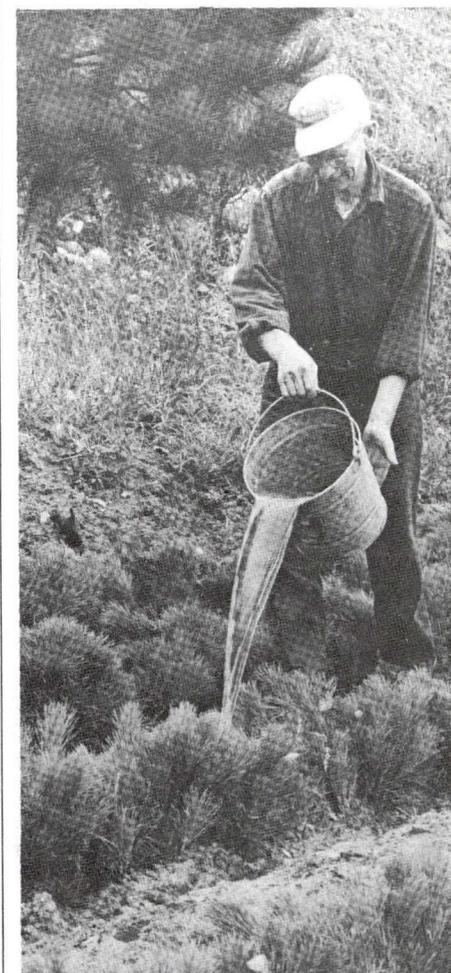
Retail selling is likely to be the most profitable venture especially for the smaller grower with a local market. If he is located reasonably close to an urban centre, he may elect to run a "choose-and-cut" operation where people select and cut their own trees.

Most retail selling, however, takes place in the cities on vacant lots, parking lots, at service stations, etc. The good salesman sees to it that his trees are placed upright, are easily inspected, and clearly priced. A well-lit, brightly decorated, efficiently organized and advertised Christmas-tree lot adds to the success of the enterprise.

The large producers, the exporters, and growers in more remote areas generally sell their trees wholesale. Arrangements for disposal of trees are concluded by July or August.



Chain saws are popular and efficient harvesting tools.



"Heeled-in" trees must be kept moist pending final planting.