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MANY MYTHS AND FACTS SURROUND CHRISTMAS TREES

Along with legends and traditions, many myths about Christmas trees have become as prevalent as the ornaments on the tree.

One such myth is that all Christmas trees come from pristine forests, and therefore, it is shameful to use a real tree instead of an artificial one. In fact, 98 percent of all real Christmas trees used each year are grown on farms as sustainable crops, just like corn or pumpkins.

Another myth is that real Christmas trees are a fire hazard. How many times have we seen a burning Christmas tree in the local news? According to the National Fire Protection Association, fewer than 0.001 percent of all real Christmas trees have been involved in a fire. With proper care, real Christmas trees maintain their freshness and moisture throughout the holiday season.

Many people think that a real Christmas tree causes allergies. While it is quite possible that a person can be allergic to tree pollen or even tree sap, it is not as widespread as many believe. A real tree itself doesn't produce pollen during December. It may collect dust, mold or other allergens, but so can other household items.

Years ago, I struggled with different ways to level a real tree. The tree stand was always too small, the water would run out too soon, etc.! Then Verne Anthony, retired Saline County FSA Director, showed me a tree stand that always worked great and was fun to make. The water receptacle is actually a hog pan mounted on two pieces of wood making four solid legs. If you are interested in making one, I can send you a picture. Four cords with S-hooks and a chain will erect the live tree and level it like a tent. It doesn't matter how crooked or how thick the trunk is. No more live tree headaches.

Have a great Christmas and Holiday Season!

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