

NEWS RELEASE

From the Brodhead Watershed Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 1, 2022

Photo1: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X46-MNHWkn1XE4bFwkQa5TPGLDW6jPbc/view?usp=sharing>

Caption: *Supporting local tree farmers is good for our local economy, as well as wildlife habitat, pure air, and clean and abundant drinking water.*

Clean Water Is Up to You series

Real? Artificial? Choices You Make Matter

by Carol Hillestad for Brodhead Watershed Association

Hands down, the Christmas tree that's best for clean water, humans, and life on earth in general is a tree that's grown, harvested and sold by a neighboring tree farmer.

Huh? Aren't groups like the Brodhead Watershed Association always telling us NOT to cut down trees?

Yes. Cutting down mature forest trees is one of the worst things we can do when it comes to clean water, breathable air, and wildlife.

But also no. That's because Christmas trees are a crop, just like corn or lettuce or pumpkins. During the eight to twelve years it takes for them to grow big enough to harvest, they're providing nesting sites, cover, and food for birds and small mammals, while purifying air and water.

And tree farmers are always planting for future years — at least one, and up to five new trees planted for every tree they cut. So each year's harvest is only a small fraction of the trees that remain — keeping most of their lands covered in strong, healthy forest habitat.

Buying from local tree farmers also means no long-distance carbon-spewing transportation. And the money you pay stays right here, in our own community, supporting local families.

When the holidays are over, real trees can go on your brush pile to provide cover for birds and small mammals as they slowly decompose. Many townships accept them to be turned into mulch.

Artificial trees take a lot of energy to make — and many are made with PVC, a known carcinogen. They're just about impossible to recycle. Even when you use the same artificial tree for many years, the balance is still in favor of a natural tree — good for you, good for nature, and the only way to get that lovely woody, piney smell.

- Wm Price Nursery, Route 390 in Cresco; ph. 570 595-2800
- Leies Family Christmas Trees, Upper Swiftwater Road in Paradise; ph. 570 620-5110
- Howard's Old Fashioned Christmas Trees, Stroudsburg; ph. 570 421-2217
- AJ Nursery, Saylorsburg; ph. 610 381-2510

Clean Water Is Up to You is a series published by Brodhead Watershed Association. See brodheadwatershed.org.

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Brodhead Watershed Association is a nonprofit environmental organization formed in 1989. BWA is dedicated to protecting and preserving water resources and the environment of the Brodhead watershed, and the water quality of the Brodhead, Cherry, Marshalls, McMichael, Paradise and Pocono creeks and their tributaries. BWA assists municipalities, residents, businesses and groups with protecting natural resources through education, workshops, seminars, public programs and stream monitoring. For information: info@brodheadwatershed.org or 570-839-1120.