

# Spruce up your holiday with visit to tree farm

## GARDEN SPOT



MARTY FIGLEY

year we say, "This one is prettier than last year!"

You might say "Eeny, meeny, miney, mo" when you visit a choose-and-cut Christmas tree farm this year. What ever kind of tree you take home, it will be perfect for you. It never fails — each

The selection is mind-boggling at the Candy Cane CHRISTMAS Tree Farm in Oxford. There are available in many shades of green, from yellow-green to a rich, dark green. Some have blue-green needles with silver, soft gray to white on the underside. Some trees have short ones, sometimes soft, other times prickly. Size, species and quality are all taken into account when the trees are priced, according to Cathy Genovese of the tree farm. "Prices are marked on colored tags so that customers can readily find a tree in their price

range," she said. The trees with blue and pink tags aren't for sale because they're in a Michigan State University study as to coning, growth rates and soil sampling. The trees are monitored every day for pests, weeds and correct moisture and to check their general health. "We buy 4-year-old trees from transplant nurseries and get genetically superior plants. They are planted at the farm in April and May, then from mid-June to early October they are pruned and tagged. Each tree is hand-pruned with different pruning tools so

that they have a natural look. After the trees are cut, the trunks are again cut at ground level and a large drill makes a hole down the center to speed decomposition to make room for new trees." The soil in Oxford is sandy, so it drains well. Although some farms experienced tree loss due to the wet spring that delayed planting schedules, followed by the hot, dry summer, which will affect tree supplies in subsequent years, the Genovese trees did fine because of an in-ground irrigation system the farms recently installed. They were the first choose-

and-cut farm to install in-ground irrigation. Four-inch pipe liners from a well 4 feet underground provide the water, and each row has line emitters set 3 feet apart so the water goes directly on the plants. Fertilizer is applied through the water. This has proven to enhance the quality of the trees. The Genovese bought their land 25 years ago. It formerly had been an egg-producing farm where corn was grown to feed animals. The Genovese decided to "make the land productive" and convert it into a Christmas tree farm. They now have 29 acres. Cathy showed me the difference in the many trees. "Firs have good needle retention," she said. "There are many firs, such as the Fraser, soft-needled and bluish-silver in color; the Douglas, rich green with soft needles; the Canaan, a cross between a Fraser and a Balsam; the Concolor, which has the fragrance of tangerines; and the Corkbark, with soft needles. Scotch pines have long, prickly needles with a strong fragrance; Austrian pines have stiff, dark-green needles and produce cones; White pines have long needles. The farm grows many varieties of spruce. For instance, Serbian is a silvery blue-green on the underside of the light green needles. Black Hill spruce is from the Black Hills of South Dakota. Blue spruce has rich

blue or green color. When you visit Candy Cane CHRISTMAS Tree Farm, take your time to find your tree. A wagon will pull your tree to the service area, where the debris will be shaken from the tree and the tree will be wrapped to protect it on the ride home. Cathy and her crew fashion large fresh wreaths and offer them for sale. Hot cider and cocoa are also available. Don't forget to visit the animals: emus, European fallow deer and three different kinds of chickens. Candy Cane CHRISTMAS Tree Farm is open now through Dec. 23, noon to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. From I-75, take Exit 89 (Sashabaw Road) north and travel 4-1/2 miles. Turn right on Seymour Lake Road and go 3/4-mile to the Candy Cane CHRISTMAS Tree Farm. The folks there will be looking for you.

**GOOD GARDEN TIPS**  
 ■ Blue spruces have prickly needles and when decorating them, wear surgical gloves," Cathy said.  
 ■ Visit Cranbrook Greenhouse, 380 Lone Pine in Bloomfield Hills, today and tomorrow to select gift plants. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday. Take the shuttle from the Christ Church Cranbrook parking lot across Lone Pine. Questions? Call (248) 645-3149 or (248) 645-3147.

## KITCHEN TOP SHOP

**Cabinetry For Every Room On Sale Now With Your Choice Of Microwave\***

Free! Countertop Sensor Microwave\* JE1860.

Just \$129 Over-the-range Microwave\* JYM1441.

\*Minimum purchase of 10 kitchen or bath cabinets to qualify. Offer ends November 30, 2001.

**31150 W. Eight Mile Road Farmington Hills, MI 48336 248.477.1515**

## Give your home a gift for the holidays.

Fixed monthly payments\* get you the home furnishings you need today — not 10 years from now.



special introductory offer **2.99% APR\*** on our Simple Finance Plan

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>6-piece living room** \$153<sup>99</sup> per month for 60 months</b></p> | <p>6-piece swedish home living room: \$7474**<br/>                 mackenzie sofa \$1399 reg. \$1599; cameo chair \$20-7587 6 (960) as shown sale \$869 reg. \$999 starting fabric sale \$719 reg. \$849; library coffee table 10-8401 sale \$799 reg. \$899; arch top library cabinet 13-9402 sale \$2399 reg. \$3299; pharmacy floor lamp 09-2833 sale \$179 reg. \$199; arak area rug 5'6" x 8'6" shown** 04-4204-1 sale \$829 reg. \$925<br/> <small>(decorative pillows optional) **other sets available at similar savings</small></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>holiday sale</b></p> <p>ann arbor 734.995.5585 lakeside 810.566.9989<br/>                 auburn hills 248.393.8600 livonia 734.261.7760<br/>                 birmingham 248.540.8558 novi 248.380.7900<br/>                 aginew 517.793.8000</p> |
|--|--|--|

## ETHAN ALLEN

SALE ENDS JANUARY 6, 2002  
 www.ethanallen.com  
 ©2001 ETHAN ALLEN MARKETING CORPORATION

### BATHTUBS ■ CERAMIC TILE

Repair • Remodel • Reglaze

The Nation's Oldest and Largest Tile and Ceramic Refinishing Company  
 All Our Showroom Or Call For Free Estimate  
**UNIQUE FINISHERS**  
 (248) 489-8900  
 Also Specialize in Antique Tub & Sink Refinishing

## "Bo Knows Bugs"

Exclusively at Gallery Animato!

Limited edition lithograph signed by U of M legend Bo Schembechler

**Animato**  
 Fine Animation & Movie Poster Art  
 574 N. Old Woodward Ave  
 Birmingham, MI  
**(248) 644-8312**

Hours: 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tues. - Wed. - Fri. - Sat. • Closed: 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sun.

**SAVE UP TO 85% OFF Retail** ON ALL 1ST QUALITY NAME BRAND BLINDS & WALLPAPER

HunterDouglas, Duette, Silhouette, Waverly, Village, Levolor, Kirsch, Graber, LouverDrape, Imperial, Thomas Kinkade, Carey Ltd. and More!

**NEW COMPUTERIZED WALLPAPER SEARCHES**  
 View over 125,000 patterns in our showroom on computers with easy-to-search methods. If you can dream it, our experts can help you find it instantly!

Now SUPER VALUE WALLPAPER: \$2.99 SUPER VALUE IN STOCK WALLPAPER

NO PAYMENT FOR 90 DAYS (see restrictions)

call... **1-800-575-2750** or visit... [www.decoratoday.com](http://www.decoratoday.com)

2 BIRMINGHAM LOCATIONS  
 1 (800) 442-3919

Hours	Mon - Fri	Sat	Sun
10am - 7pm	10am - 7pm	10am - 7pm	11am - 5pm

## Don't Get Left In The Cold

Our Weather Watcher Furnace Can Save You Up To 40% On Gas Bills!

**A GAS FURNACE UP TO 90% EFFICIENT**

**SAVE UP TO 40% ON YOUR GAS BILLS**

**FREE ESTIMATES**

**FINANCING AVAILABLE**

**Special FURNACE CLEANING & SAFETY CHECK \$79<sup>99</sup>**

**DO IT YOURSELF**

• Furnace  
 • Ducts  
 • Space Heaters  
 • Radiators & Pads  
 • Air Cleaners  
 • Parts for all Equip.  
 • Custom Duct Work

**LIZUT HEATING & COOLING 858-7730**

905 ORCHARD LK. RD. AT TELEGRAPH (Across Home Depot) SERVING OAKLAND COUNTY SINCE 1987