O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree!

- Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since about 1850.
- There are 291 Christmas tree farms in Illinois, according to the 2007 Census of Agriculture.
- Illinois’ 291 farms rank 17th in the United States. Oregon has the most Christmas tree farms, 1,852.
- Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states. Oregon is the top producer by volume. In 2007, it harvested more than 6.8 million trees. Illinois ranked 17th with a harvest of 112,617 trees.
- More than 17 million Christmas trees were harvested nationwide.
- The value of all Christmas trees harvested was $385 million. Illinois’ crop was worth $6.5 million.
- Throughout the United States, more than 340,000 acres of land are planted in Christmas trees, including 3,843 in Illinois.
- On average, 2,000 Christmas trees are planted per acre. No more than 1,500, however, will survive to maturity. Christmas trees typically are harvested when they reach six to seven feet in height and almost always require shearing to attain their shape.
- The best selling varieties are the Scotch pine, Douglas fir, Noble fir, Fraser fir, Virginia pine, Balsam fir and white pine.
Top 10 Illinois counties
(by number of trees harvested)
McHenry 15,117
Macon 7,575
St. Clair 4,418
Henry 4,149
Peoria 2,892
Stephenson 2,480
Rock Island 1,497
Kane 1,052
Jo Daviess 910
Carroll 789

Top 10 Illinois counties
(by number of farms)
Madison 15
Lake 14
Kane 13
St. Clair 12
Henry 9
McHenry 8
Peoria 8
Sangamon 8
Winnebago 8
Champaign 7
Edgar 7
Stephenson 7