



ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN,  
I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim

December 2020  
as  
**CHRISTMAS TREE MONTH**

WHEREAS, December signifies a national celebration to recognize the importance of the Christmas tree as an agricultural commodity for the United States and to celebrate the diversity and abundance provided by Michigan's 500 Christmas tree growers; and,

WHEREAS, in Michigan and throughout the United States, the Christmas tree industry provides jobs, environmental significance, and joy to many consumers throughout the holiday season; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan's integrated network of family farmers, processors, wholesalers, and retailers work together to ensure a quality product that is enjoyed by millions throughout our state and country, and approximately 30 million real Christmas trees are sold in the U.S. every year; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan Christmas tree farming is third in the nation for number of Christmas trees harvested, supplying approximately two million fresh trees to the national market each year, with an annual farm gate value of more than \$35 million; and,

WHEREAS, currently, 350 million Christmas trees are growing around the country, and Michigan Christmas tree farmers grow and sell more varieties of Christmas trees than any other state in the U.S., with Michigan growers farming more than 37,000 acres of Christmas trees; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan consumers and retailers take pride in purchasing Michigan-grown agricultural products; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan's food and agricultural sector continues to be a growing industry offering new business and career opportunities for Michiganders, making food and agriculture a cornerstone of Michigan's economy; and,

WHEREAS, real Christmas trees are a great choice for environmental reasons, as they grow on rocky soil typically unsuitable for other crops, provide extra woodland for animals, and create oxygen and take carbon dioxide out of the air, which helps combat global warming; and,

WHEREAS, after a tree is cut down, only one to three seedlings are needed to begin the cycle again, and it would take 20 years of harvesting real Christmas trees annually to reach the carbon footprint of producing one artificial Christmas tree made from petroleum-based products; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan Christmas trees are 100% recyclable and biodegradable, and cities and communities throughout Michigan offer recycling programs that turn discarded trees into wood chips used in local parks and woodland areas; and,

WHEREAS, during this month, we should recognize the importance of the Christmas tree industry and show our appreciation to Christmas tree farmers for providing a resource of agricultural and environmental significance to our state;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim December 2020 as Christmas Tree Month in Michigan.**



  
Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor

