

STORIES of New Jersey

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SCOTCH PLAINS

No. _____

PUBLIC LIBRARY

INTRODUCING CHRISTMAS TREES

From Canada, Maine, Vermont and New York there are pouring into the cities of the country 15,000,000 Christmas trees to delight the eyes and hearts of young America. The city of Newark alone will take 150,000 for distribution to nearby points.

A Christmas tree is just a Christmas tree to most people, a thing to beautify with frosted angels, glittering balls, long silver and gold streamers, red, white, and green lights, and a Star of Bethlehem at the very top. But there are many kinds and all of them are beautiful.

The one most familiar to the majority is the spruce tree. Its sharp needles are stiff and prickly. The branches are rough and the central stem is straight, stiff, and strong enough to carry the weight of a heavy ornament at the tip. In this section of the country the Norway spruce is the most popular Christmas tree.

The hemlock tree is not as sturdy, but it is one of the most beautiful of the forest or garden; its leaves lie flat and are soft to the touch, the needles are blunt at the tip and slightly twisted, so that they point in every direction from the stem. This gives a lovely, lacy appearance. Its central leader is, however, too pliable to hold much weight and heavy ornaments are not suitable for it.

The fir, or balsam, while it does not grow in this area, comes into the market and may be identified by pulling a few needles from its branches. Small holes will be left in the branch. None of the other cone-bearing evergreens has this characteristic. The needles are blunt at the tip and heavy at the base.

The cedar, also called the juniper, should be easily identified by New Jersey people. It is a narrow, conical tree with sharp-pointed, gray-blue needles. It will fill the house with a pronounced fragrance that is always associated with Christmas.

The white and scrub pines are also familiar, with their narrow