



Quality grading for Nordmann fir Christmas trees

According to this quality grading trees will be graded in an A-class and in a B-class.

Quality grading A-Class trees

GENERAL ASPECTS FOR A CLASS A TREE:

The tree should always appear as an attractive and saleable product where the total impression is a matter of vital importance. The tree can be open or dense, however the angle of the branches and the number of intermediate branches can be decisive for the total impression of the tree. Repair of earlier damage to the tree can be accepted, when they occur in a way, which does not disturb the positive total impression of the tree.

MEASURING AND MARKING:

Marking:

The trees must always be marked with a label where the ground colour is red.

Height:

The height of the ready to sell tree is measured as the distance from the cut to the where the top whorl reach along the leader.

The height is defined in following height classes:

40 – 60 cm	100 – 125 cm	175 – 200 cm
60 – 80 cm	125 – 150 cm	200 – 250 cm
80 – 100 cm	150 – 175 cm	250 - < cm

Handle:

The tree must have a clean handle which must have a length of 5 to 10% of the total height of the trees up to 200 cm and between 5 to 15% of the total height of trees more than 200 cm.

QUALITY AND GRADING:

The colour:

The tree should have a consistent color. The color should be green, but a small color variation in the lower part of the tree is permitted.

The shape:

The tree must appear with a natural height/width proportion to insure that the total impression of the tree is positive. The tree must not have a width that is greater than 1,33 times the height of the tree or narrower than half the height of the tree, unless the general impression of the tree can compensate for such an extreme height/width proportion. The width of the tree should be understood as an average of minimum two width measurements across each other in the bottom part of the tree.

Density:

The distribution of whorls should be evenly distributed over the entire length of the tree and in combination with internodal branches guarantee an even density so that the stem does not seem to be dominant, considering the normal growth of the tree.

Trees below 150 cm should have at least 3-4 whorls.

Trees between 150 and 175 cm should have at least 4 whorls.

Trees between 175 cm and 200 cm should have at least 5 whorls.

Trees over 200 cm should have at least 5 whorls.

The distance between the whorls in the upper half of the tree can be up to 50% further apart than the year before.

The stem:

The tree must have only one straight stem in the centre of the tree.

Top growth:

The tree must have only one leader of a reasonable length. The leader must not occur from an upward pointing sidebranch or a shoot with an angle from the stem above 15 degrees. Trees above 150 cm must have a leader with a length of minimum 25 cm.

The angle of the branches, whorls and symmetry:

The number of branches in the whorls should be adequate enough to give the tree a symmetrical and dense look. This means that the tree must have at least 4 branches of the same length in every whorl. Whorls with 3 branches can be accepted in the case there are many internodal branches which can compensate for this minor irregularity or that the angle of the branches can compensate for the deficiency.

Needle and twigs

Needle and twigs must be normal developed and are not allowed to have significant signs of aphids and insect damage, algae cover, frost injury, animal bites, worn damages or other inflicted damages. A slight loss of needles in minor areas of the tree can be acceptable.

Quality grading of B-Class trees:

Any saleable tree that does not meet criteria of a Class A tree.

