

Tree and Wreath Contest Rules and Judging Guidelines

All growers are encouraged to enter and compete in the MCTA Christmas tree and wreath contest for the opportunity to present a tree to Michigan's Governor and to represent Michigan in the National Christmas Tree Association Christmas tree and wreath contest. National winners have the privilege of presenting a Christmas tree to the President and his family for display in the White House.

To be eligible to compete in the contests, contestants must be members of the Michigan Christmas Tree Association and be willing to represent Michigan in the NCTA tree competition if selected as the winner. Note: To participate in the NCTA tree competition, you must be an NCTA member. You do not need to be an NCTA member to participate in the Michigan Christmas Tree Association contest.

Tree Contest Rules

Trees may be entered in each of the following categories: (1) Fir (including Douglas fir), (2) Spruce and (3) Pine. A grower may enter 2 trees total in two different categories. All trees must be between 6 and 8 feet in height (including length of tip) and must be trimmed so a 6' – 12" handle is present. The height and handle requirements will be strictly followed. Trees cannot be color treated. Official judging will be done by a panel of qualified judges as approved by the MCTA board of directors and follow the USDA guidelines. The first, second and third place winner will be determined in each species group. The Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion trees will be selected by popular vote of the MCTA members in attendance (note each MCTA member farm will receive two votes) at the summer meeting from among the top four trees in total points regardless of species.

The grower of the Grand Champion tree will also win a free registration at the next MCTA Winter Meeting and will be expected to present a tree to the Governor for the holiday season following his or her win, on behalf of the Michigan Christmas Tree Association. The Reserve Champion winner will present a tree to the Governor the following year.

The four trees that earn the highest number of points will represent Michigan in the next National Christmas Tree Association Christmas Tree contest. If any of the top four are unable or ineligible to compete at national, the option moves to the grower with the next highest point total until the four representative positions are filled.

Wreath Contest Rules

Each individual, family or farm may enter two wreaths, one decorated and one undecorated. Judging the contest will be three independent judges approved by the MCTA Board of Directors.

Wreaths entered must be made on a 12-inch ring of natural conifer greens grown within Michigan. Wreaths may be single or double faced. They will be judged hanging on a wall or lying on a table. All wreaths will be judged by the same "Guidelines for Wreath Judging."

First, second and third place winners will be selected in each class; decorated and undecorated. The Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded to the two entries with the highest percentage of total points available. The Grand Champion winner will be expected to present a wreath to the Governor for the holiday season following his or her win, on behalf of

the Michigan Christmas Tree Association. The Reserve Champion winner will present a wreath to the Governor the following year.

The two undecorated and two decorated wreaths that earn the highest number of points will represent Michigan in the next National Christmas Tree Association Christmas Wreath contest. If any of the top four are unable or ineligible to compete at national, the option moves to the wreath maker with the next highest point total in that category until the four representative positions are filled.

Trees and wreaths must be checked in by the appointed time and will be disqualified if time limit is exceeded. The 2018 Tree and Wreath contest check-in time will be from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Trees that do not fall within the 6'-8' height requirement and/or do not have a 6 -12 inch handle will be disqualified. Wreaths not prepared on a 12" ring or not made with natural conifer greens will be disqualified.