

Apple Hill Christmas trees survive drought

By Debbie Arrington, Sacramento Bee

Drought realities haven't evaporated the holiday spirit on Apple Hill.

"Conifers are pretty drought-tolerant trees," noted Dee Kobervig of the El Dorado County Christmas Tree Growers. "A lot of trees we grow up here don't need that much water."

That list includes Douglas firs, blue spruces, Scotch pines, Nordmann firs and native incense cedars; they've lived through the drought with their green needles intact.

"My silver tips and my red firs are doing really well," Kobervig added. "The incense cedars are native to our area and very, very drought tolerant. This year, they're beautiful trees."

Recent rain came just in time to plump up the crop for prospective buyers.

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