

# Christmas trees fresher, but fewer this year

By Debbie Arrington, Sacramento Bee

This year's Christmas trees really appreciated last year's wet winter.

Visitors to Northern California tree farms can see the difference. Their favorite firs look fresher, the leaves plumper, the branches fuller. What a difference water makes.

Five years of drought stunted many trees – and prevented farmers from planting more. That's caused a shortage of bigger trees at farms in Apple Hill and other popular areas.

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