

SCTA Annual Tree Contest Rules

(20210216)

The Southern Christmas Tree Association (SCTA) shall hold a tree contest at its annual meeting for the purpose of promoting and rewarding excellence in the production of Christmas trees in the region and establishing eligibility of the winners for the National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA) National Christmas Tree Contest.

Eligibility of Entrants

- All current, voting, grower members of SCTA in the states of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi are eligible to enter a tree in the contest.
- Members may enter more than one tree in the contest but only one tree per species.
- Each tree entered must be set up in the established display area not later than the official Saturday start time of the annual meeting.
- *Added NCTA Rule:* entrants must be members in good standing of the NCTA at the time of the affiliated / state contest to be eligible to enter the NCTA contest.

Requirements of Entries

- All classes of commercially grown Christmas trees grown on the member farm are eligible for entry in the contest, including both cut trees and container-grown trees. There will be no separate classes or categories of trees.
- Eligible trees must be no less than 6 feet in height and no more than 8 feet in height measured from the bottom of the handle to the tip of the leader.
- In the case of container trees, it will be measured from the bottom of the pot to the top of the leader. The container can be any size or shape except that the diameter of the top of pot cannot exceed 24 inches.
- Entries cannot be artificially colored or flocked.
- Entries cannot have branches or limbs that are wired, tied, or inserted in any fashion within the tree.
- Any tree failing to meet these requirements will be declared ineligible by the contest chairperson.

Entry and Balloting Procedures

- Members who enter a tree in the contest will notify the contest chairperson of their entry prior to the entry deadline (official Saturday start time of the annual meeting).
- The president of SCTA will appoint a three-person contest committee with a chairperson to supervise the contest procedures, balloting, and announcement of awards.
- The chairperson will attach a lettered tag to each entry and maintain a log of each entry detailing the entrant and the assigned number of his/her tree.
- The executive secretary will prepare ballots prior to the beginning of the meeting and include them in the registration packet.
- Balloting for the tree contest must conclude not later than start time of the general business meeting. Ballots will be collected by the contest chairperson and counted by the three-person contest committee.

Contest Awards and Recognition

- A first, second, and third place award will be presented to the entries from each state that received the most votes.
- A contest Grand Champion and Reserve Champion will also be awarded to the two entrants receiving the most votes from among the winners from the three states.
- The Grand Champion and Reserve Champion will have the honor of representing the SCTA at the national contest sponsored by NCTA during the following year's annual NCTA contest.