

# DECEMBER 2022

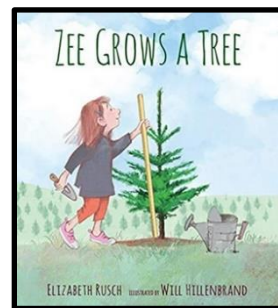


## Ag in the Classroom Book of the Month

### Zee Grows A Tree

by Elizabeth Rusch

On the morning little Zee Cooper is born, a Douglas-fir seedling emerges from the nursery bed at her family's Christmas tree farm. As Zee and the tree grow up together, they experience many of the same milestones. When Zee starts preschool, her tree is ready to start life outside the nursery. As Zee outgrows all her clothes, her tree grows taller, too. When Zee gets a whole new look for kindergarten, her tree gets a spiffy transformation as well. And as the years go on, Zee takes loving care of her tree, watering it through heat waves and protecting it from winter winds. Combining interesting details about how trees are grown and cared for on a farm with the sweet story of a friendship between a girl and her special tree, Zee Grows a Tree offers a blend of fiction and nonfiction that will draw the interest of young nature lovers everywhere. In the back of the book, readers will find an index, bibliography, and an author's note suggesting some ways to enjoy a holiday tree without cutting one down.



#### Fun Facts:

- Leyland Cypress is one of the most popular trees grown in the south and is the No. 1 Christmas tree grown in Georgia.
- Our state grows about 1,400 acres of Christmas trees at a value of just over \$9 million.
- For every Christmas tree cut in Georgia, five are planted in its place.
- The first Christmas tree farm was started in 1901 when W.V. McGalliard planted 25,000 Norway spruce on his farm in New Jersey.
- Approximately 25-30 million Real Christmas trees are sold each year in the United States. Almost all of these come from Christmas tree farms.
- It takes about 6-8 years for the Christmas trees to grow to a marketable height.

#### Videos:

- Farm Monitor: [Newton County Family Provides Christmas Tree for Vice President Harris](#)
- Farm Monitor: [Ranger Nick - Growing Christmas Trees / Trees For Troops](#)
- Farm Monitor: [Georgia Christmas Tree Farm Helps Create Holiday Spirit](#)
- [Christmas Tree Farm | Nature Boom Time](#)

#### Activities:

- [Handprint Christmas Tree Card](#)
- Lesson: Discover Christmas Trees [K-2](#) and [3-5](#)
- [Gumdrop Christmas Tree Challenge](#)- Build, then measure to see what group has the tallest gumdrop tree
- [Popsicle Stick Christmas Tree Frame Ornaments](#)
- Gift for parents: [Hot Cocoa Mix Recipe](#) and Christmas card with directions. **Option 1, 2 and 3.** (Print cards on both sides of the paper.)
- [Christmas Trees Made from Ice Cream Cones](#)
- [Air Clay Ornament](#)- Use pine needles to decorate the tree shaped ornament
- Christmas tree [bookmark](#) and [color page](#)
- Recipe: [Christmas Tree Waffles](#)

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