



# EMERALD KEEPERS

For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado

# PINE OR PLASTIC?

## CHOOSING A CHRISTMAS TREE

Christmas trees are a beloved symbol of the holiday season. When choosing a tree, be sure to consider the environmental impact of your choice.

### REAL TREES

Lured by the fresh pine scent, Americans buy 32 million fresh Christmas trees each year. While Christmas trees are grown throughout the U.S, most trees sold in San Diego are trucked in from Oregon.



It takes approximately 7 years to grow an average-sized Christmas tree. As trees grow,

they absorb carbon and provide a home for wildlife

At the end of the holidays, cut trees can be repurposed into garden mulch. Coronado collects Christmas trees with your regular curbside service or drop them off at Glorietta Bay boat ramp or Cays Park parking lots. Trees with flocking cannot be mulched or recycled and need to be placed in the trash to go to the landfill.

### ARTIFICIAL TREES

With the benefit of convenience, approximately 10 million artificial trees are purchased in the U.S. each year. Most artificial trees are manufactured in China using PVC plastic

and steel. Then they are shipped across the ocean. Both the manufacturing and shipping of artificial trees produce harmful emissions and pollutants. On average, customers use an artificial tree for 6 years. After that time, the trees are destined for the landfill as they cannot be recycled.



### COMPARISON

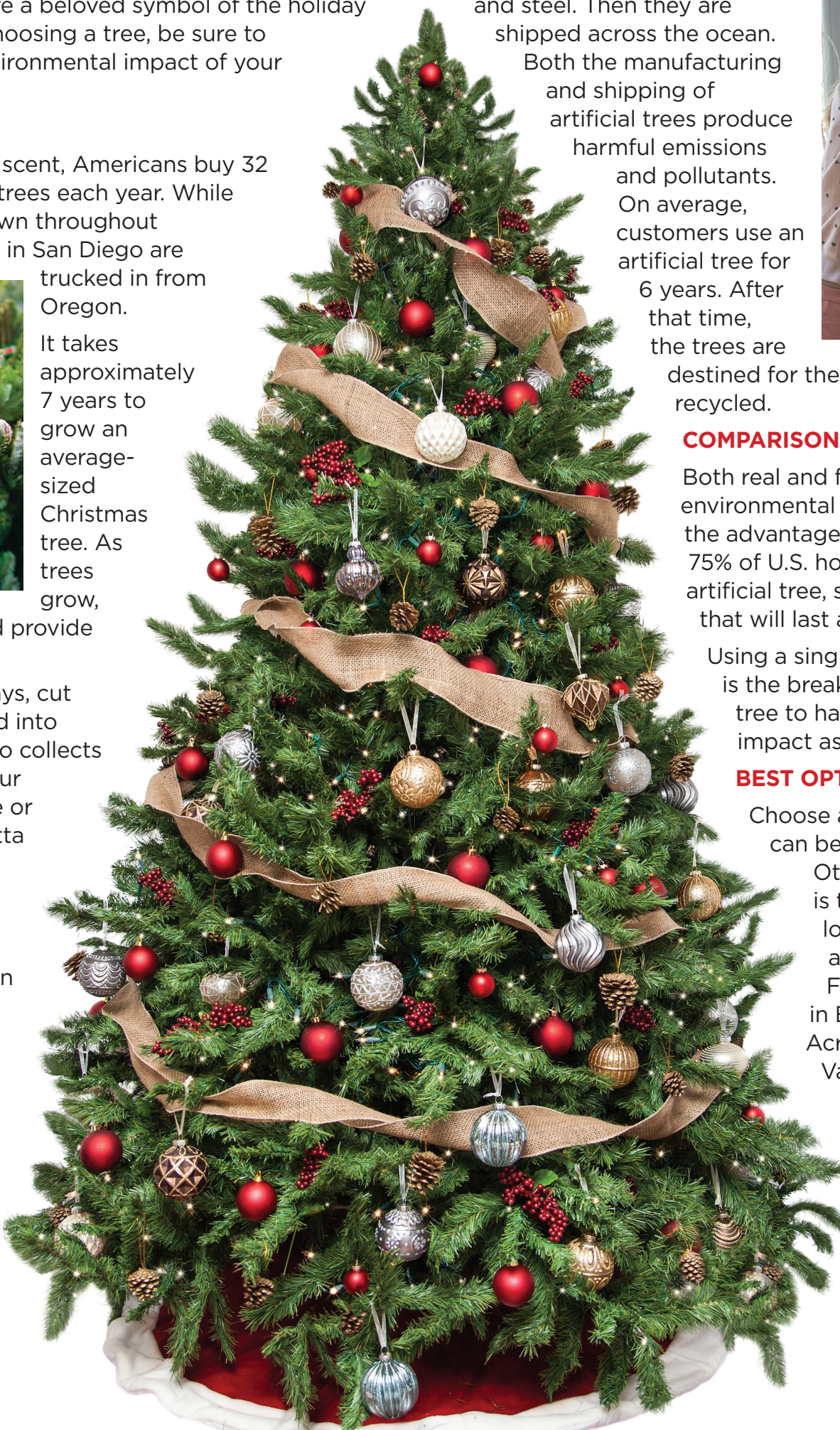
Both real and fake trees have an environmental impact, but real trees have the advantage. If you decide join the 75% of U.S. households that opt for an artificial tree, select a high-quality one that will last a long time.

Using a single artificial tree for 20 years is the break-even point for an artificial tree to have a similar environmental impact as one real cut tree.

### BEST OPTION

Choose a potted living tree that can be planted after the holiday. Otherwise, the best option is to buy a tree grown at a local farm. You can select and cut your own tree at Family Christmas Tree Farm in El Cajon, and the Pine Tree Acres Farm and Highland Valley Farm, both in Ramona. All are less than a one-hour drive from Coronado. Plan ahead as these farms often sell out early in the season.

Your Christmas tree choice can help keep Coronado Emerald Green, Ocean Blue.



For more information visit [EMERALDKEEPERS.ORG](http://EMERALDKEEPERS.ORG)