There are many costs of producing Christmas trees that must be borne during the early years of the plantation. It is not until trees are large enough for harvest and sale that positive cash flow begins. Production costs can include the following:

- Equipment (mowers, sprayers, shearing equipment, etc.)
- Labor (plaining, post control, dishing, harvesting, etc.)
- Seedlings
- Chemicals (herbicides, fertilizers, etc.)
- Miscellaneous items (signs, flagging, road maintenance, gates, etc.)

Production costs can include the following:

- Weed Control
- Planting
- Fertilization
- Diseases
- Insects
- Miscellaneous items (signs, flagging, road maintenance, gates, etc.)
- Chemicals (herbicides, insecticides, fertilizers, etc.)
- Miscellaneous items (signs, flagging, road maintenance, gates, etc.)

The most important variable cost of growing Christmas trees is labor. Labor costs include wages for the owner or family members and any outside help in order to keep up with all the cultural practices that need to be done in later years. Labor costs for the first and subsequent years can be estimated by the following formula:

\[ \text{Labor Costs} = \text{Land Area} \times \text{Man-Hours per Acre of Care} \times \text{Number of Years} \]

Once you've completed your planning and seedling selection, the real work begins. For a successful venture, you must also consider the subsequent labor requirements and marketing.

Growing Christmas trees is an easy venture. As you continue to read through this article, you will understand that growing a quality tree will take investments of time, work, and money. It will be of superior quality if managed with care. If it is true that trees, especially conifers, can adapt and survive in a variety of climates and soil conditions. However, as a Christmas tree grower, you are not just trying to have a nice tree, you are trying to sell it.
When I was a kid in New England, my mother’s decorating style was, well, let’s call it late-century vegetative. As a gardener, I think I failed to realize that despite the overwhelming abundance of plants, our gardens are a reflection of the environment we come from. In Connecticut, we were often graced with flowers and foliage, but in Virginia, where I now live, the environment is very different. My mother’s garden was filled with a variety of plants that would not grow here, and I found myself wishing to have some of the species she grew in my own garden. However, I soon realized that the native species here are much more abundant than in Connecticut, and I decided to focus on creating a garden that is more in line with the environment we live in.

One of the species that is particularly problematic in Virginia is the American bittersweet. It is a climbing vine that grows quickly and can cover entire trees in just a few years. It is also highly invasive, as it can reproduce by seed or rhizomes, and it is difficult to control once it has become established. The American bittersweet grows in a wide range of environments, from wetlands to ditches, and it can survive in a variety of conditions.

The American bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculatus) is a deciduous vine that grows up to 100 feet tall. It has small, yellow flowers that bloom in June and July, and it produces bright red berries that are a favorite of birds. The leaves are a rich green in the summer, turning orange and red in the fall. The American bittersweet is a valuable species, providing food and shelter for wildlife, but it can also be a problem if not managed properly.

The Oriental bittersweet (Celastrus sinensis) is another species that is problematic in Virginia. It is a deciduous vine that grows up to 100 feet tall and is native to China. It was introduced to the United States in the 1930s and has since become a serious pest. The Oriental bittersweet grows in a wide range of environments, from wetlands to ditches, and it can survive in a variety of conditions. It is a valuable species, providing food and shelter for wildlife, but it can also be a problem if not managed properly.

In my garden, I have decided to focus on growing native species that are adapted to the Virginia environment. I have planted a variety of shrubs, trees, and perennials that are native to the area, and I have also incorporated native flowers and herbs into my garden. I have found that by creating a garden that is in line with the environment, I am able to provide a habitat for the wildlife that is native to the area, and I am able to create a garden that is more satisfying for both people and wildlife.

The American bittersweet and the Oriental bittersweet are both deciduous vines that grow up to 100 feet tall. They have small, yellow flowers that bloom in June and July, and they produce bright red berries that are a favorite of birds. The leaves are a rich green in the summer, turning orange and red in the fall. The American bittersweet is a valuable species, providing food and shelter for wildlife, but it can also be a problem if not managed properly. The Oriental bittersweet is a deciduous vine that grows up to 100 feet tall and is native to China. It was introduced to the United States in the 1930s and has since become a serious pest. The Oriental bittersweet grows in a wide range of environments, from wetlands to ditches, and it can survive in a variety of conditions. It is a valuable species, providing food and shelter for wildlife, but it can also be a problem if not managed properly.

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