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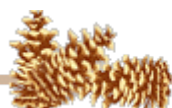
Greetings,

Hope the New Year is off to a good start for everyone. I thought I would take this opportunity to mention a little bit about the history of the Tree Farm program and about our members in New Mexico. The Tree Farm program has been in New Mexico since 1947. The first Tree Farm in New Mexico was the Mundy Ranch near Chama. They are still members of the program. No one knows what forester signed them up. In 1947 there was no New Mexico State Forestry Division which provides the volunteer foresters for the program today. The New Mexico State Forestry Division was not created until 1958.

Today we have a total of 195 members on our mailing list. Tree Farms are either certified (meaning they have a current management plan), pioneer (are working on a plan) or member status (they need to update their plan).

Tree Farms can be anywhere from 10 acres to a maximum of 10,000 acres. In New Mexico 84 of our Tree Farms are 10-50 acres, 26 are 51-100 acres, 45 are 101-500 acres in size, 8 are 501-1,000 acres, and we have 32 that are over 1,000 acres in size. We have a total of 171,807 acres in the program.

Tree Farm is the only program state-wide that represents forest landowners. Please keep in mind the American Tree Farm System mission is: to promote the growing of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of all benefits of productive forestry. During this New Year let us know if we can be of any assistance to you in your efforts to manage your forest.



## HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT TREES?

**What is the record of the earliest known tree life on earth?** A flash flood struck in the western Catskill Mountains, in upper New York State, in 1869, uprooting trees, carrying away bridges, causing the banks of Schoharie Creek to cave in. This exposed in the bed of the creek some tree stumps made of solid rock which aroused great curiosity. Later, while building the Gilboa Dam for the New York City water supply excavation penetrated deeper into the hillsides of the same area, and turned up many mysterious stumps.

**Is silviculture the same as forestry?** No. Forestry puts the emphasis on the management and protection and use of forests, while silviculture puts the emphasis on forest growth, improvement and health. They are complementary sciences.

**How is the home tree situation different today?** Housing projects, suburbanization, faster living pace, smaller backyards, and more people in less space call for fast-growing small trees with decorative style.

**Does cocoa come from the coconut palm?** No, cocoa or chocolate is made from the seeds of *Theobroma cacao*, a native tree of tropical America, but now planted widely in the tropics. It is not a palm tree but belongs to the same order of trees as the linden. The similarity of the words cocoa and coconut is purely coincidental.

**Does defoliating by insects hurt a tree?** It reduces the foodmaking powers which weakens the tree for a season. It does not kill the tree unless defoliation occurs for several years running.

**How does a tree grow?** Increasing in height and lengthening of branches begins inside a bud at the moment it starts to open. Then cells at the base of the bud divide vigorously, multiplying their numbers. These miraculous cells have soft, thin walls; they are distended with protoplasm and contain a nucleus with inheritance genes and enzymes (proteins that control growth). As these cells increase in number, the apex of the twig is pushed up or out, leaving behind cells formed by the division. Then the cells which had multiplied by division absorb water. The water enters into the center of each cell, pushing the protoplasm to the outside where it is held just beneath the cell wall. This causes the cell to expand in all directions but chiefly by elongation. Most growth comes from the elongation of cells. The enzymes exert a mysterious control which results in the growing tree taking the form (top growth will go farther than growth to the side, making it tall and tapering) of its species and keeping it always in balance.

Growth in diameter of trunk is coordinated with the increase of height and width. Each of the living cells in the cambium is long and slender, rectangular in cross-section, and arranged parallel to the axis of the trunk. Like the cells squashed down at the base of buds, these are thin walled, vital with flowing protoplasm including enzymes. When buds are opening and twigs are elongating, trunk and limbs receive a signal to increase in girth. Their cells are split crosswise by a partition across the middle, and one half glides alongside the other. In some cases two cells of trunk and limbs split down their length, leaving one half beside the other. This builds the width of the annual ring when the two halves swell to full-sized cells. At the same time, they elongate, keeping up with the increasing height of the tree or the increasing length of its branches.

