

**Tip of the Day-- prepare for freezing weather by draining water from pumps and fire equipment.**

**November:**

Inspect roads--

- Check that culverts are open and free of debris
- Clean existing water bars.
- Ensure that water bars are on roads in areas where you recently logged.
- After the first rains, make sure water runs off of your roads and not down them.
- Seed bare ground with non-invasive grasses to stop erosion and weeds.

Check Equipment--

- Winterize motors—antifreeze, tires, oil, etc.
- Drain your fire wagon and make sure to get water out of those pumps and hoses.
- Store fire hand tools in a dry place.
- Paint or oil exposed wood or metal surfaces
- Wash equipment to prevent mud buildup.

Begin Pruning Projects--

- Plan and perform pruning to meet your management goals.
- Avoid damage to branch collars and “coat hanger” branch stubs.

Logging on the East side--

- Wait for ground to freeze to lessen compaction.
- Reduce fuel and improve fireproofing of your forest.

**December:**

“What to do after Christmas Dinner--”

- Hold a family forestland meeting during the holidays when everyone comes over.
- Share your vision for the forest with the children and grandchildren.
- Inspect your woods as a group and burn some of those calories.

Year-end Planning--

- Talk with your accountant about any end-of-the-year tax concerns.
- Update your will and your plans for passing down the tree farm.

“A Season of Giving--”

- Donate greenery, cones, mistletoe, rounds, and other forest products from your land to others.  
Giving returns seven-fold.
- Visit or contact other tree farmers and share your joy of forestry.

## “Thinking Ahead for the next year”

- Put in permanent plots for future management decisions.
- Talk with professional foresters about ideas for your tree farm.
- File your “notice of operation” for the new year so you are poised to take advantage of a rise in log prices. Mill log inventories tend to drop in the first quarter leading to higher log prices.
- Old fences often wander, and don’t end up on your property line. Get your property line surveyed before harvesting to the fence and discovering later how far that old fence had wandered.
- Prepare for planting season.
- Update your management plan. If you don't have one, start one.
- Get your tree farm certified.

## January:

### Planting Season:

- Optimal *planting time* for bare root seedlings on West side is January through March.
- Arrange with nursery for seedling *delivery date* and schedule tree planting day(s).
- Plan for seedling *transport and cold storage* if needed. It’s vital to protect seedlings from sun and drying during transport and on site. Use “space blankets” and coated tree planting bags to minimize temperature gain and moisture loss. If you don’t get all your seedlings planted in a day or two, arrange for storage at temperatures just above freezing to keep them dormant and healthy.
- Research shows that seedlings *handled gently* do better. Don’t throw or drop bags of trees and don’t sit on bags of trees. Seedlings outside the ground are a fish out of water.
- *Plant your tree right the first time:* Why replant a second time? Supervise hired planters for quality control. Plant to same depth as in nursery with stem vertical to flat ground. No air pockets around roots and keep plant debris out of planting holes. Make a hole big and deep enough so roots hang down naturally. Gently firm soil around roots. Look for good planting spots: north sides of stumps, not on humps of soil, not in skid or deer trails, not next to animal burrows. “Keep the green part up.”
- *Match your spacing* to your future management plans and expected survival; monitor to make sure you achieve your spacing.
- *Plant the right tree* by making sure the species you plant fits the site.
- Plant a few trees with *family members* so you can watch them grow. For you do it yourselfer’s, plant a lot of trees with family members.

### “New Year's Resolutions--”

- Renew your membership in your local woodlands association.
- Attend your woodland association's annual meeting. Get your spouse to go.
- Invite a friend to attend the meeting with you.
- Promise to recruit one new member into your association.
- Promise to attend one woodland tour during the year.

### “Trading Spaces--”

- Trade your skills with those of another tree farmer. If you're good at sawing but not good at computers, find someone who can take you surfing on the internet and make a trade, and a friend.

“Woody Woodpecker’s Inn”

- What is 16 inches in diameter, dead and 30 feet tall? What is 20 inches in diameter, dead and 25 feet tall? And loved by Woody’s in-laws. A snag. Leave snags for wildlife when you can. Cut them when they are a hazard.