

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Patchen California Adds to Its Green Portfolio

Los Gatos, Santa Clara County, CA - November 6, 2015 - Patchen California Christmas Tree Farm has expanded its tree recycling operation by including two locations in the Santa Cruz Mountains where anyone can drop off Christmas trees, fake Christmas trees, tree lights or ornaments, and anything else that goes with Christmas.

Since 1969, Patchen California has reused its tree stumps. How? Owner Jim Beck teaches customers how to cut trees while leaving a minimum of five finger-sized branches on the remaining stump. This method keeps the root system alive and able to grow another tree, ready to harvest in five to eight years.

Beck keeps a succession of trees at different stages of growth. "If we were to clear-cut a whole area, that would create a problem with the first big storm that comes along," Beck says. "It would wash away the topsoil, not to mention the animal habitat lost."

The farms' sustainable tree farm practices include:

- * Wood chips replace herbicide for weed control and conserves soil moisture
- * Integrated Pest Management:
 - Trapping gophers (no poison)
 - Keeping trees healthy and resistant to insects
 - Redirecting deer migration paths
- * Natural fertilizers such as manure and composted garden waste
- * No artificial heating in the farm buildings
- * LED lights reduce energy usage
- * Repairing and recycling tools for decades of reuse
- * Only newly planted seedlings get irrigated (by hand)
- * Stump-culture generates new trees from old stumps
- * Recycling
 - Tree branches for mulch
 - Cups, bottles and cans left behind
 - Christmas trees (REAL or fake)
 - Christmas lights, ornaments, etc.
 - Abandoned Kids and Pets recycled as Elves and Reindeer

In addition to reusing, recycling and conserving, Patchen California donates hundreds of trees each year to schools, churches and charities that include Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, City Team Ministries, Loaves and Fishes, Job Train, Cupertino Community Center and many others.

Since 1969 Patchen California - named for the historic, 19th century mountain town - is visited by families seeking a nostalgic trip to the forest to cut their own trees. Beck says that many families have surpassed their 30th year anniversaries as customers and some are into their third generation. According to Beck, "although most come to cut trees, some just come for our famous handmade wreaths or just to have a picnic at one of many picnic sites among the trees. We invite guests to visit year-around for a picnic or walk in the trees."

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