

White House Groundskeeper likes Carolina trees

Written by

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Executive White House Groundskeeper Irv Williams, who was just honored for his decades of federal service in Washington, joined Chief Usher Steve Rochon at Mistletoe Meadows Christmas Tree Farm in Ashe County

yesterday to select the perfect tree for the White House Blue Room. Williams picked the first official White House tree in 1966, and the process is still the same.

No matter what, the White House always ends up with beautiful trees.

It's not Williams' first trip to North Carolina. Mistletoe Meadows' tree is the tenth tree from the state to be selected, more than in any other state. According to Williams, that says something about North Carolina.

It makes beautiful trees, he says.

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It's the second tree to be selected from Ashe County.

Grower Joe Freeman won the National Christmas Tree Competition, and donating the White House Christmas Tree is part of the title. Freeman estimated the tree's worth at approximately \$1,500. The Fraser fir will be delivered to Washington next month where Freeman will personally present the tree to First Lady Laura Bush.