

Naples, Idaho, USA

HIGHLAND FLATS

TREE FARM AND DISTILLERY

Established 1999

Botanicals sourced from this farm: Idaho Blue Spruce, Idaho Grand Fir, White Fir

FARM LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

Located in scenic Naples, Idaho, the Highland Flats Tree Farm and Distillery is home to some of the beautiful evergreen trees that help Young Living produce many of its coniferous essential oils. This location is not only a blue spruce farm but also home to one of the world's largest conifer essential oil distilleries. It's the location of Young Living's annual Winter Harvest and Spring Planting projects, which allow members to experience firsthand our Seed to Seal® quality commitment.

BOTANICAL BACKGROUND

Idaho Grand Fir essential oil offers a woody, refreshing aroma reminiscent of a freshly cut Christmas tree. Grand fir trees are native to the Pacific Northwest of the United States and produce a beautiful coat of fragrant foliage that makes them a favourite part of holiday decor. The farm also grows white fir, an evergreen recognised for its year-round beauty and ability to thrive in different environments.

Beginning at about 20 years of age, blue spruce will reliably produce cones every 2-3 years. After blue spruce is planted, it takes 10-12 years before we can harvest it. The Navajo and Keres Native Americans used blue spruce branches as gifts to bring good luck.

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DISTILLING AND TESTING

The farm uses gas chromatography to analyse every batch of oil it produces. With records dating back to the farm's first distillation in January 2014, a full-time lab technician can monitor even the most subtle change in constituents from season to season. The distillery features Young Living's first digital process control system with digital instrumentation, sensors, controls, and software. This system provides incredibly accurate measurements, ensuring precise temperatures, pressures, and durations are used during every distillation, even via remote monitoring.



HOW THE FARM GOT ITS START

Young Living Founder D. Gary Young discovered Idaho Grand Fir essential oil in 1998, which eventually led him to discover the entire collection of conifer oils now distilled at Highland Flats. He purchased the initial land for the Highland Flats farm in 1999. Before that, the land was used as a Christmas tree farm.

In the beginning, all tree material had to be driven 115 miles south to the St. Maries Lavender Farm and Distillery. This continued until the distillery at Highland Flats was completed in 2014.

Michael Carter worked with Gary during a Highland Flats Tree Farm Winter Harvest event. The encounter changed his idea of what was possible and how to achieve it with a dedicated group of people. Now as farm manager, Michael's goal is to use cutting-edge, regenerative farming to produce the highest-quality essential oils. Like Gary, Michael loves sharing the process with Young Living members in an inspirational and enjoyable way.



DID YOU KNOW?



Three oils produced by this farm are used in over 50 different Young Living products.



Before he discovered his passion for essential oils, Gary worked as a professional logger. The Winter Harvest event held at this farm gave him the opportunity to share his love for forestry and commitment to quality with members from all over the world.



The Highland Flats Tree Farm and Distillery was the initial pilot project to upgrade Young Living's steam production from a traditional boiler to a more efficient steam generator.



The farm's annual Winter Harvest event has been held every year for over 20 years.

LOOKING AFTER THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY



Conserving water. The Highland Flats distillery saves thousands of gallons of water each year by reusing by-product water in the evaporative cooling system, creating a closed loop of water usage.

Reusing resources. The farm partners with local logging operations to reuse their by-products to distill essential oils. In logging, the by-products are typically burned, so the farm is also reducing emissions by using the leftover material. This material is also added to the farm's fields after distillation to support fertility and sequester carbon.

Practicing regenerative farming. The farm practices no-till, regenerative farming in an effort to cultivate the highest-quality conifer trees possible. The farm crew uses all leftover plant material from distillation to mulch the fields and improve fertility.

Employing sustainable power sources. Most of the electricity consumed by the farm is produced using renewable hydroelectric power from the local cooperative.

Supporting the community. The farm donates Christmas trees for auction, with the proceeds donated to the local fire department.