

The Pitch & Needle

September 2010



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About this newsletter

The Pitch & Needle is a semi-annual publication of the Oregon Department of Agriculture and is intended as an aid to anyone involved in the growing and shipping of Christmas trees. Through this bulletin, we hope to provide you with the most current shipping information as well as other topical information related to the Christmas tree industry. If you have any suggestions for topics or articles for the next issue, contact Gary McAninch at 503-986-4644 or e-mail <gmcaninc@oda.state.or.us>.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this publication will be made available in alternate formats.

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2010 Christmas tree certification requirements for shipments to states and territories of the US

Below is a summary of requirements to ship cut Christmas trees to states and territories of the United States, and to selected foreign countries. Inspections and certifications are provided by Oregon Department of Agriculture personnel. Review the information in the summary and contact the department to arrange field inspections prior to harvest and certification. Please provide at least five (5) days notice before the actual shipping date when submitting certificate requests. Requests need to be scheduled as far in advance as possible. Destination shipping requirements are subject to change. Shipping to foreign countries and a few domestic destinations requires an electronically filed application on the phytosanitary certification issuance and tracking system (PCIT). Where states require phytosanitary certificates, like Hawaii, PCIT certificates will be used. See separate article regarding PCIT guidelines. Do not confuse a shipping permit with a phytosanitary certificate. All shipments require shipping permits, available upon request from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, but only a few destinations require phytosanitary certificates.

Christmas tree brokers must submit, to the Oregon Department of Agriculture Plant Division, a list of all growers and growing locations from which Christmas tree harvest and shipping will occur.

All states

All bills of lading, invoices, and bills of sale should bear county of origin, as well as, the name and address of the shipper. All shipments of Christmas trees grown in Oregon are required by Oregon law to be accompanied by a shipping permit.

Arizona

Oregon Christmas tree shipping permit required. The Arizona Department of Agriculture will inspect all trucks as they enter the state (including transit shipments). If pests are found, the shipment will be held at the border station pending identification. The Arizona Department of Agriculture estimates a four-hour turn-around on pest identification during business hours. Trucks arriving after business hours may be held until the next business day. Trucks arriving Friday afternoon or over the weekend may be held until identification can be made the following week. Any pest found, that is named on Arizona's quarantine list, is cause for shipment rejection.

Arizona law requires all trucking companies participating in the "pre-pass" program and carrying agricultural products to stop at Arizona weigh stations.

California

County of origin and species of Christmas tree (Douglas fir, Scotch pine, etc.) must appear on shipping documents. Mail-order Christmas trees shipped to customers in California, via US Mail, UPS, Federal Express, etc., must have the county of origin and species of Christmas tree clearly marked on the outside of each shipping carton. The best location for the county of origin is on the shipping label or adjacent to the label. 1.

All shipments that include pine species destined for California must be accompanied by a European pine shoot moth (EPSM) certificate. These certificates are only available for growing grounds that have been trapped during the 2010 trapping season. Contact your area horticulturist for additional information. Only certificates dated 6/1/10 to 5/31/11 are valid and may be obtained for eligible growing locations by calling the department horticulturist for your area at 503-986-4644.

Shipments of EPSM-uncertified pine Christmas trees may be shipped through California to other states provided the name and complete address of the consignee are present on the invoice, bill of sale, or bill of lading and the Christmas trees are shipped in a closed van (open trucks or trailers will not be allowed to pass through California if the shipment includes uncertified pine). Note: pine Christmas trees must also be accompanied by a cereal leaf beetle certificate.

Cereal leaf beetle certification is required for Scotch pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), red pine (*Pinus resinosa*), and Austrian pine (*Pinus nigra*). Any of these trees originating in infested Oregon counties (Baker, Benton, Clackamas, Columbia, Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Lane, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Washington, and Yamhill) are prohibited from shipment into California unless they are treated and certified before shipment. Regulated articles coming from uninfested counties must be certified by the Oregon Department of Agriculture as to origin before the shipment is made. Regulated pine species originating from infested counties may be shipped through California to other states when accompanied by a "Cereal Leaf Beetle Statement of Transit Compliance Agreement." Requests for certification should be directed to the ODA's Plant Division, 503-986-4644.

Pine boughs in wreaths are exempt.

Delaware

Oregon Christmas tree shipping permit is required.

Florida

Signed compliance agreement with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. See attached memo entitled, "European Brown Garden Snail Compliance Agreement." The deadline

for signing and returning the compliance agreement to the Department of Agriculture is October 15, 2010. In addition, a European brown garden snail certificate is required.

Hawaii

1. Container inspection. Containers must be free from soil and debris and care must be taken to prevent contamination of Christmas trees and containers with soil during storage and loading procedures.
2. Trees shipped to Hawaii must be shaken to qualify for certification. Shaking options are:
 - a. Each individual unbound tree shall be lifted or raised not less than 18-inches above ground level with the butt of the tree struck onto a solid surface with sufficient force to dislodge any “hitch-hiking” insects and other contaminants, such as arachnids, gastropods, amphibians, etc. The tree shall be shaken after each strike using a minimum of three or more strikes, and/or the procedure shall continue until most of the dead needle fall is eliminated.
 - b. 100 percent of the trees in the consignment may receive mechanical shaking (motor or PTO driven shaking unit). Each unbound tree shall be mechanically shaken for a period of time sufficient to dislodge any “hitch-hiking” insects and other contaminants, and/or until most of the dead needle fall is eliminated.

If no live yellowjacket (*Vespula* spp.), snails and slugs were found during examination, the entire lot of trees can be allowed for shipment to Hawaii and be certified as being “apparently free of live yellowjacket (*Vespula* spp.), snails and slugs”; or

If one or more live yellowjacket (*Vespula* spp.), snails, or slugs were found during examination, the entire lot of trees shall be considered “infested” and shall not be certified for shipment to Hawaii under this protocol.

3. Inspection
Each containerized shipment of trees shall be accompanied by a valid phytosanitary certificate that has been issued at the point of origin by an agriculture official from the participating domestic regulatory agency. The certificate shall be conspicuously affixed or located on the inside door panel of the container and shall contain the following added declarations:
 - a. 100 percent of the trees have been mechanically or manually shaken;

- b. The trees have been grown and originate from an area free of gypsy moth and sudden oak death; and
- c. The shipment is apparently free of yellowjackets (*Vespula* spp.), snails, slugs, and other detrimental pests.

4. Port-of-Entry Inspection Procedures

Any and all containers will be inspected at the port of Oahu by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. If no certificate is provided at the inspection, the HWDOA has the authority to reject the shipment, submit it for treatment at the owners’ expense, or recondition the shipment by 100 percent mechanical shaking, also at owners’ expense. The shipment may be refused entry if the owner does not wish to comply with treatment or reconditioning of trees.

Guam and other Pacific trust islands

Import permit and Oregon state phytosanitary certificate required. The Guam Department of Agriculture is requiring all imported Christmas trees to be shaken, starting this year. Written declaration of shaking must be on certificate.

New Mexico

Shipping document showing origin of trees required.

North Carolina

Same as Florida, in addition, prenotification is required. Notification can be forwarded via fax to 919-733-1041, Attn.: Dan Wall, or e-mail <Dan.wall@ncmail.net>.

Oregon

The Oregon Christmas tree law requires that a shipping permit accompany each shipment of Oregon grown Christmas trees. Living “balled and burlapped,” potted, or containerized trees are regulated as nursery stock and require a nursery license.

Puerto Rico

Oregon state phytosanitary certificate is required. Additional declaration: The Christmas trees in this consignment are free from pine shoot beetle, *Tomicus piniperda*. All shipments are inspected on arrival. If any actionable pests are found, the trees will be fumigated, rejected, or destroyed at the option of the exporter. To avoid the possibility of rejection, it would be advisable to process the trees with a mechanical shaker.

Virginia

Same as Florida.

2010 Christmas tree certification to foreign countries

Aruba

No known requirements, but certificates can be issued.

Canada

Canadian customs invoice required. Phytosanitary certificates are no longer required for cut pine Christmas trees, wreaths, and boughs. Shipments must be accompanied by documents verifying their origin. Douglas fir Christmas trees from Curry County require an import permit (IP) and a phytosanitary certificate (PC), but are unrestricted from other counties in Oregon. True fir (*Abies* spp) Christmas trees to British Columbia (BC) are unrestricted between November 1 and January 30. *Abies* spp. Christmas trees from Curry County going to provinces other than BC require an IP and a PC. *Abies* spp. Christmas trees from other Oregon counties are unrestricted. The origin of the trees must be clearly stated on shipping documents.

Costa Rica

Federal phytosanitary certificate and import permit are required. Trees and containers must be free of soil. Do not certify unless an import permit is presented.

El Salvador

Federal phytosanitary certificate and import permit required. Trees and containers must be free of soil.

Guatemala

Federal phytosanitary certificate and import permit required. Trees and containers must be free of soil.

Hong Kong

Federal phytosanitary certificate and import permit are required. Trees and containers must be free of soil.

Japan

Federal phytosanitary certificate is required. Trees and containers must be free of soil. To avoid the possibility of Japan rejecting or fumigating because of live insects or dead or diseased needles, it would be advisable to process the trees with a mechanical shaker. Fourteen fungi and 92 species of insects and mites are listed as non-quarantine pests. All pests other than these are considered quarantine pests. Any shipment infested with quarantine pests will be refused entry or destroyed.

Korea

Federal phytosanitary certificate is required. Pine prohibited. Douglas fir prohibited from Columbia and Curry counties. Trees and containers must be free of soil. Add additional

declaration, "This shipment was inspected and found free of *Phytophthora ramorum*."

Mexico

Phytosanitary certificate (PC) required for *Abies* spp., *Pinus sylvestris*, and *Pseudotsuga menziesii*. An import permit (IP) is not required for these species, but is preferred. PC and IP required for all other Christmas trees and conifer branches.

All requirements on the IP must be met for trees to be certified. The IP is obtained from the customer in Mexico. In order to obtain a federal PC the following requirements must be met:

1. Freedom from pests and diseases: While there are specific tolerances for most pests and diseases, it is advisable to ship the cleanest possible trees in order to avoid having the trees rejected by inspection officials in Mexico.
 2. Mechanical shaking of all trees: Trees must be thoroughly agitated on a mechanical shaker, prior to baling, to remove dead needles, pests and any other debris from the trees. To prevent re-infestation by insects such as yellowjackets, weevils, etc, the trees should be loaded onto the truck as soon as possible after shaking or protected with netting or screening.
 3. Freedom from dead or discolored needles.
 4. No trees flocked or painted unless special permits have been obtained first. Inspection and certification: Trees must be inspected by ODA officials, and phytosanitary certificates for trees meeting Mexico's import requirements will be issued to the exporters. Import permits are not officially required, although most importers obtain them anyway. If import permits are presented, then all the requirements listed on the permits must be met. Provide your ODA inspector with a list of fields to be inspected as early as possible. When the inspection is completed you will be provided with a detailed report informing you which fields are eligible for certification to Mexico. Generally, an acceptable tolerance level for non-quarantine pests is two percent, meaning that two per cent or less of the trees in the field are infested with that particular pest. Trees from fields with unacceptable levels of pests or diseases will not be certified for export.
- Points of entry into Mexico are: Ensenada, Mexicali, Tecate, Tijuana, C. Hidalgo, Ojinargra, Cd. Juarez, Piedras Negras, Cd. Acuna, Manzanillo, Mexico City, Acapulco, Lazaro Cardenas, Columbia, Salina Cruz, Subtenente Lopez, Mazatlan, Topolobampo, Agua Prieta, Nogales, San Luis Rio Colorado, Matamoros, Reynosa, Nv. Progreso, Cd. M. Aleman, Nv. Laredo, Altamira, Tampico, Veracruz, Coatzacoalcos, Merida, Progreso.

Please see separate article on proposed Mexico shipping regulations.

Continued on page 7

Certification request

In order that we may supply you, in a timely manner, with the various certificates that you need for the coming Christmas tree season, please take a few minutes to complete and return this form. Your cooperation will eliminate delays and save time for everyone. Thank you.

Business name _____

(1) Shipping permits/certificates

Please indicate the number and type of certificates you need.

Quantity *Type of certificate*

_____ Christmas tree shipping permits

_____ European brown garden snail certificates
(required for Christmas tree shipments to AL, AR, FL, MS, NC, TN, VA).

_____ European pine shoot moth certificates (required for shipping pine Christmas trees to California). Only pines from fields that have a negative trapping history for pine shoot moth are eligible.

(2) Exporting Christmas trees

Christmas trees shipped out of the continental United States usually require an inspection and phytosanitary certification prior to shipping, and may also require a pre-harvest field inspection. If you plan to export Christmas trees to Mexico, Hawaii, Japan, Puerto Rico, or other foreign area, please complete the section below

Country or area of destination

Approximate number of loads

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please list the field location(s) where the trees for export are being grown (use a separate sheet if necessary). Indicate the approximate acreage of the field, the types of trees (nobles, grands, Dougs, pines, etc.) and include maps, addresses, and other references as needed.

Return completed form to:
Gary McAninch
Oregon Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301-2532

European brown garden snail compliance agreement

As authorized in ORS 570.306 through ORS 570.310, and because a quarantine (OAR 603-52-129) has been established against the introduction and spread of European brown garden snail, *Helix aspersa*, an agreement is hereby established between the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Christmas tree grower identified below for the purpose of maintaining Oregon cut Christmas trees free from European brown garden snails.

Business name _____ License # _____
(please print)

Owner's name _____
(please print)

Street address _____
City State Zip

Telephone _____

Please indicate the state(s) listed below to which you will ship Christmas trees.

Florida Number of truck loads _____

North Carolina Number of truck loads _____

Virginia Number of truck loads _____

The above named Christmas tree grower agrees to comply with the terms as specified in the compliance procedures.

Owner's signature Date

Return completed form to:

Gary McAninch
Oregon Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301-2532

Palau

Federal phytosanitary certificate and import permit required. Trees and containers must be free of soil.

Panama

Import permit and federal phytosanitary certificate showing the trees' origin are required. For *Abies* spp. an extensive additional declaration is required. The shipment must be packed in tamper-resistant boxes. The commodity must be free of soil. Packaging material must not be made of plant fiber or any material that may spread pest.

Singapore

Neither IP nor PC is required. PCs can be provided as a courtesy.

Taiwan

Douglas fir and true fir trees (including Christmas trees) are prohibited because they are *Phytophthora ramorum* hosts.

The Philippines

Federal phytosanitary certificate and import permit required. Trees and containers must be free of soil.

All other foreign countries

1. Phytosanitary certificate required.
2. The foreign importer (buyer) should obtain a plant import permit from the ministry or department of agriculture of the importing country.
3. Christmas tree growers may wish to contact the importing country's nearest consulate office in the United States for agricultural inspection and customs requirements.

For a specific country's shipping requirements, contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Salem, 503-986-4644, or USDA-APHIS, Portland, 503-326-2814.

Furlough and holiday notice

There are two furlough days that may impact services to Christmas tree growers. On these days no ODA services will be available. They are: Friday, September 17th and Friday, November 26th. Also, the ODA will not be working on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 25th. If you need services during these days, please contact your inspector to make other arrangements.

European brown garden snail certification

The Oregon Department of Agriculture has entered into the Master Permit Program with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, for the purpose of certifying Christmas trees grown in Oregon and offered for sale in Florida, North Carolina, or Virginia. The Master Permit Program establishes a list of Oregon Christmas tree growers whose plantations are certified to be free from European brown garden snail. The Master Permit Program will allow Christmas trees produced by participating growers to clear agriculture inspection with minimum delay.

To meet the Master Permit Program requirements for shipping Christmas trees to Florida, North Carolina, and Virginia, Oregon Christmas tree growers must comply with the following.

Compliance procedures

1. The grower shall notify the Oregon Department of Agriculture of intent to ship Christmas trees to Florida, North Carolina, or Virginia by completing the enclosed compliance agreement. Return the completed form to the Oregon Department of Agriculture Plant Division, 635 Capitol Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301-2532. Only the names of growers who have completed and returned compliance agreements by October 15, 2010 will be included on the list sent to Florida, North Carolina and Virginia.
2. The Oregon Department of Agriculture will conduct a visual inspection for the presence of European brown garden snail.
3. Christmas tree plantations found to be free from European brown garden snail infestation shall qualify for master permit certification.

The department will prepare a list of all qualified growers and forward the list to Florida, North Carolina and Virginia agriculture officials.

Reminder...

European brown garden snail certificate must still accompany each shipment.

2010 Mexico update

By Gary McAninch, program supervisor

Every five years Mexican officials review and update their regulations pertaining to the importation of agricultural commodities. Mexico's regulations for the importation of Christmas trees, known as Norma Oficial Mexicana 013 (NOM 013), are being reviewed and amended this year. Changes to NOM 013 will be of great interest to Christmas tree growers and exporters because of its potential impact to those who export trees into Mexico.

Just as Mexico has NOM 013, most other countries have rules in place which regulate the importation of plant products. These regulations are designed to protect the importing country's agricultural and natural environment from the introduction of dangerous pests and diseases not already found in that country. International rules require that the adoption of regulations and quarantines related to the importation of plant products be based on valid scientific pest risk assessments (PRA). Mexican officials have spent the past year developing a pest risk assessment for use in reviewing and updating NOM 013. In May of this year they solicited public comments concerning their PRA. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and industry representatives all submitted comments during this period. Following the public comment period Mexican officials released proposed changes to NOM 013. Some proposed important changes include:

- All tolerance levels for pests and diseases will be eliminated. Previously trees lightly infested with pests like Douglas-fir needle midge and Douglas-fir twig weevil were allowed entry into Mexico as long as the level of infestation remained below the stated tolerance level. In the future, all quarantined pests will have a zero tolerance.
- Changes will be made to Mexico's list of quarantined pests and diseases. Some of the major changes are:
 - One species of Douglas-fir needle midge, *Contarinia pseudotsugae*, has been removed from the quarantine list. Two other species of Douglas-fir needle midge (*C. constricta* and *C. cuniculator*) remain on the list of quarantined pests. *C. pseudotsugae* is the only species of Douglas-fir needle midge known from Oregon.
 - Douglas-fir twig weevil, *Cylindrocopturus furnissi*, will now have a zero tolerance. This pest previously had a tolerance level and Mexico accepted lightly infested trees.
 - Four insect species were added to the quarantine list. The insects include, spruce budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana*), western spruce budworm (*C. occidentalis*), pine sawfly (*Diprion similis*), and balsam gall midge (*Paradiplosis tumifex*). Of these four, only western spruce budworm is known from Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

- Two species of eriophyid mites were also added, *Nalepella ednae* (attacks noble fir) and *Ephitremerus pseudotsugae* (attacks Douglas-fir). Both of these species of eriophyid mite are known to occur in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.
- All slugs in the genus *Arion* may be added to the quarantine list. *Arion* species common to the Pacific Northwest include the European red slug, *Arion rufus*, and the grey garden slug, *A. circumscriptus*.
- Perhaps the insect quarantined by Mexico that is of most significance to Christmas tree shippers is the German or European wasp, *Vespula germanica*. Mexico will have a zero tolerance for this insect.
- Mexican officials may require a minimum shaking time of 15 seconds for each tree shipped. Shaking has been required of all trees shipped to Mexico. However, this is the first time that Mexican officials have discussed setting a minimum shaking standard.
- A pesticide treatment is likely to be required seven weeks prior to harvest. Mexico's list of approved pesticides includes the three synthetic pyrethroids: permethrin, esfenvalerate, or bifenthrin.
- Importation of live potted Christmas trees is prohibited.

Some of these proposed changes will have a great impact on your ability to ship Christmas trees into Mexico. We do not know for sure when the proposed changes to NOM 013 will be made but it is likely they will go into effect prior to the 2010-shipping season. ODA, USDA and industry representatives have met several times with Mexican officials over the past two years to discuss the proposed amendments to NOM 013. We will continue to interact with Mexican regulatory officials in the hopes that they will adopt less restrictive regulations. The ODA will pass along any information we receive concerning changes to Mexico's NOM 013.

PCIT instructions

By Dennis Magnello, horticulturist

When submitting PCIT applications for phytosanitary certificates to Mexico, be sure that the information you enter on the application matches the information on the import permit. This includes the name and address of the consignee (destination information), the description of the product, the place of origin, and the point of entry. Only one point of entry may be listed on the phytosanitary certificate. If more than one point of entry is listed on the import permit and the point of entry is undetermined, then the point of entry should be listed as "Mexico."

Phytosanitary certificate issuance and tracking (PCIT) information

In 2010, Christmas tree shipments that need phytosanitary certificates, whether state or federal, will be required to use PCIT. The phytosanitary certificate issuance and tracking system, commonly known as PCIT, is a web-based service administered by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS). PCIT allows plant exporters to create applications for state and federal phytosanitary certificates online. ODA staff process submitted applications and then provide inspection and completed state or federal certificates for exporters. An account must be created by the nursery grower on the pay.gov website to cover the cost of the certificates. The federal phytosanitary certificate will go up to \$21 on October 1, 2010 (\$6-USDA and \$15-ODA).

The PCIT website can be found at: <https://pcit.aphis.usda.gov/pcit/faces/index.jsp>. Follow the directions on the sign up menu for level one access. If you need further assistance, please contact the nursery inspector in your area or Sue Nash at 503-986-4640. You can also contact the PCIT help desk for additional assistance at 1-866-457-7248 or pcithelpdesk@aphis.usda.gov.

Shipping permits

Shipping permits are provided to growers who are selling wholesale shipments of trees, both in state and out of state. They verify that the trees have been grown and inspected by ODA inspectors. Please don't share your shipping permits with other vendors. The license numbers are for your business only. If your license number is associated with trees that have not been inspected by the ODA, your trees may be at risk. There have been reports of non-licensed Christmas tree growers using shipping permits belonging to legitimately licensed growers. Safeguard your trees and your license number.

Mailing/shipping labels

By Gary McAninch, program supervisor

Most states, including Oregon, do not regulate cut flowers, cut branches, and products produced from them such as wreaths, garlands, door-swags, bulk branches, and boughs. Even though wreaths and cut boughs are not regulated, most states have the authority to inspect packages containing plant products.

As the holiday season approaches, the following information may help with interstate delivery of your bulk and finished Christmas greens. The state of California's labeling requirements are the most restrictive, therefore if your labels comply with California requirements, the labels meet the requirements of all other states.

For bulk shipments of greens or finished wreaths, your invoice or bill of lading must include the following information:

1. your company's name and address
2. statement of origin such as, "manufactured in Marion County"
3. the name and address of the consignee
4. an itemized list of the products included in the consignment.

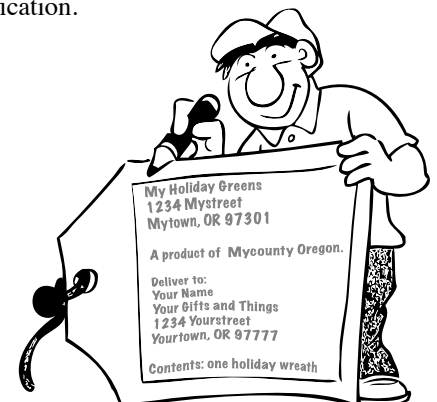
For direct market sales, your mailing or shipping label must include

1. your company's name and address.
2. statement of origin.
3. consignee's name and address.
4. statement of contents: such as "one holiday wreath."

Mailing/shipping labels that do not include this information are generally held for inspection by agriculture officials. The shipping carton is opened and inspected to assure compliance with pest cleanliness regulations.

Note: Pine boughs and cones in manufactured wreaths are exempt from California's European pine shoot moth and cereal leaf beetle quarantines and will not require origin or treatment certificates to ship into California.

Shipments of holiday greens to customers in foreign countries must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate. Contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture Plant Division at 503-986-4644 to arrange for inspection and certification.



Plan ahead for Christmas tree exports

By Dennis Magnello, horticulturist

Most Christmas tree shipments to foreign countries or to US territories overseas require an inspection and certification in the form of a federal or state phytosanitary certificate. For some destinations an import permit, issued by the importing country, is also required.

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) horticulturists can provide the necessary inspections. You must apply online for certification. Adhering to the following guidelines can help exporters receive these services in a timely and efficient manner:

Determine the export requirements to the destination country or territory. If you are uncertain about the requirements, contact the ODA Plant Division at 503-986-4644. This issue of the ODA Christmas tree newsletter, "The Pitch and Needle," contains information about certification requirements for foreign and domestic shipments of Christmas trees.

Provide the ODA horticulturist in your area (your nursery and Christmas tree inspector) with a map of the plantations from which Christmas trees for export will be cut. The trees may then be inspected in the field to determine whether they

meet the export requirements for freedom from insects and diseases. The preferred time to inspect trees is during the months of September and October. In November, much of the inspectors' time is taken issuing certificates, and little time is available for field inspections. Waiting until November to request field inspections will lead to delays in inspecting and certifying your shipments. In some cases, trees may also be inspected in the shipping yard prior to loading.

Obtain any necessary import permits and use them to upload with your electronic phytosanitary certificate application (PCIT- see related article). These online submissions should be made several days in advance, preferably a week or more. You will need to know the quantity and type of trees, the date needed, the exporter's name and address, the importer's name and address, the type and quantity of trees being shipped, the method of transportation, the origin of the trees (county) and, if needed, the import permit number associated with each shipment.

Christmas tree growers who are not exporting trees to foreign destinations may also request field inspections if they are experiencing problems with their trees, or just as a precautionary procedure to determine whether any significant insect or disease problems are present.

Useful websites

Oregon Department of Agriculture

- <http://oregon.gov/ODA>

Pacific Northwest Plant Disease Control Handbook's online version

- <http://plant-disease.ippc.orst.edu/index.cfm>

Pacific Northwest Insect Management Handbook's online version

- <http://pnwpest.org/pnw/insects>

Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook's online version

- <http://weeds.ippc.orst.edu/pnw/weeds>

Washington State University Extension—Christmas trees

- <http://smallfarms.wsu.edu/crops/christmastrees/index.html>

Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association

- <http://nwtrees.com>

2010 Christmas Tree Advisory Committee

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