

The Pitch & Needle

April 2006



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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>.



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Plan ahead for Christmas tree exports

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 and certification. Adhering to the following guidelines can help exporters receive these services in a timely and efficient manner:

1. 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. The September issue of the ODA Christmas tree newsletter, "The Pitch and Needle," will contain some information about certification requirements for foreign and domestic shipments of Christmas trees.
2. 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 inspector's time is spent 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.
3. Obtain any necessary import permits and fax legible copies to your inspector, along with your request for phytosanitary certificates. Requests should be made at least several days, but preferably a week or more, in advance and should include, for each destination:
 - number of certificates needed
 - date needed
 - exporter's name and address
 - importer's name and address
 - type and quantity of trees being shipped
 - method of transportation
 - origin of the trees, and if needed
 - import permit number associated with each shipment.

The inspector can then make an appointment to meet you at your office or shipping yard to issue the certificates. The fax number for the Plant Division in Salem is 503-986-4786.

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 as a precautionary

procedure to determine whether any significant insect or disease problems are present.

2006 *P. ramorum* survey

Nancy Osterbauer, senior plant pathologist

In May 2005, ODA surveyed 103 Christmas tree plantations planted in 22 counties for *Phytophthora ramorum*. The survey was conducted to reassure customers and trading partners that Oregon true fir and Douglas fir Christmas trees remain free of this pathogen. For the fourth year in a row, no *P. ramorum* was found. The survey will be repeated again in May 2006. Like last year, the number of plantations surveyed in each county will vary depending upon the total acreage of Christmas trees grown within the county. The department will randomly select plantations in each county and then will contact growers for permission to survey. Participation in the survey is optional. The department plans to survey at least 100 plantations this year in an effort to maintain *P. ramorum*-free status for Oregon Christmas trees.

Some field observations in 2005

Gary Garth, horticulturist

Mid September.

Problem: Grower is concerned about balsam woolly adelgid (BWA) damage to noble fir trees. The field is interplanted with Fraser fir, which are showing severe damage to 6'-plus trees of twisted branches and swollen galls due to high populations of BWA. The noble fir do not show similar damage at this time, although they do have adelgids present at lower population levels. The grower is wondering if the nobles may show damage symptoms by harvest time (two months) and if an insecticide spray would be beneficial at this time.

Results: Inspection revealed many adelgid crawlers present which weren't protected by a waxy coating, so a Thiodan (endosulfan) spray was recommended, and proved to provide a high degree of control. The nobles were harvested in November along with any Fraser fir that met grade. Severely damaged Fraser fir should be removed from the field this winter and additional insecticides (Lorsban is also registered) should be applied to remaining trees in the field after new growth begins in the spring.

Late October.

Problem: Grower notices color reduction in Douglas fir, suspects spider-mite damage, but does not see any mites present.

Results: Inspection revealed the presence of mites; not typical spruce spider mite, but a much smaller eriophyid mite. These are cream colored, look like small grains of rice and are best seen with a magnifying glass. The damage, caused by their sucking mouthparts, has already been done and it is too late for this season. Control measures for this pest call for horticultural oil applied when new growth is

one inch or less. Inspect needles in late summer to see if population levels are high enough to warrant further control.

November:

Many of our noble fir fields showed various degrees of interior needle loss. In most cases the needles would fall off with mechanical shaking and the trees were still marketable. Much of this may have been due to typical late season soil moisture reduction. One grower, however, had severely blighted needles which would not easily shake off from the trees. The area of the field primarily affected was on a north facing slope with large timber adjacent to the planting. A foliar sample was taken and submitted to the ODA pathology lab, which identified the fungus *Phaeocryptopus nudus* as being present. These fungi cause infection of needles during the spring under extended periods of high moisture. A fungicide (chlorothalonil) applied during shoot elongation may provide some protection from this syndrome.



Oregon Department of Agriculture nursery exporters

Country	Phytos
Aruba	3
Canada	52
Costa Rica	6
El Salvador	2
Guam	14
Guatemala	1
Hong Kong	24
Japan	9
Korea	1
Mexico	1,501
Northern Mariana Islands	1
Pago Pago, American Samoa	2
Panama	3
Puerto Rico	66
Republic of Korea	1
Republic of Palau	2
Singapore	10
Grand total	1,698

Oregon Section 24(c)s: Special local needs (SLN) registrations for Christmas trees

ISSUED TO	PRODUCT	EPA #	SLN #	PEST
Bayer CropScience	Axiom DF (Flufenacet and Metribuzin)	264-766	OR-040017	rat tail fescue and other grasses
Dow AgroSciences	Kerb 50W (proamide)	62719-397	OR-040029 (allows for aerial application)	grassy and other weeds
Syngenta Crop Protection	Subdue MAXX (mefenoxam)	100-796	OR-050004	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>
FMC	Capture 2E (bifenthrin)	279-3069	OR-940041	spruce mites and root weevils
AMVAC	Discipline @EC (bifenthrin)	5481-517	OR-050005	spruce mites and root weevils
Crompton Manufacturing	Omite 6E (propargite)	400-89	OR-030022	spider mites
Dow AgroSciences	Kelthane MF (dicofol)	62719-405	OR-020031	spider mites
Makhteshim-Agan	Thionex 50W (endosulfan)	66222-62	OR-030012 (includes aerial and some ground application methods)	eriophyid needle mite, Douglas fir needle midge, and certain adelgids and aphids
Makhteshim-Agan	Thionex 3EC (endosulfan)	66222-63	OR-030013 (includes aerial and some ground application methods)	same as OR-030012
Dow AgroSciences	Lorsban 4E (chlorpyrifos)	62719-220	OR-050015	aerial application



What to look for now

Spring (March—May)

Insects	Life stage	Host	Symptoms
Balsam woolly adelgid	Adults	True fir, especially Fraser	White woolly masses on bark, swelling of branch nodes
Balsam twig aphid	Adults	True fir, especially grand	Small greenish aphids in tops or along branches, twisting of new growth
Douglas fir needle midge	Adults	Douglas fir	Trap adults and spray at bud break
Douglas fir twig weevil	Larvae	Douglas fir and noble fir	White grubs under bark of branches or into pith
Cooley spruce gall adelgid	Crawlers	Douglas fir	Cottony masses develop as new growth elongates

Diseases	Host	Symptoms
Swiss needle cast	Douglas fir	Rows of small, black fruiting bodies on undersides of needles
Needle rusts	True fir, especially Grand	White, tube-like fruiting bodies on undersides of needles

Summer (June—September)

Insects	Life stage	Host	Symptoms
Root aphids	Adults and immatures	Noble fir	Tree decline, presence of ants in new plantings, clustering white aphids on roots
Root weevils	Adults	Douglas fir and true fir	Poor growth and discoloration especially in new plantings, notches in needles and trunk girdling
Spider mites	Adults and immatures	Douglas fir and true fir	Yellowing and stippling of the foliage
Eriophyid mites	Adults	Douglas fir and true fir	Olive-green or bronze foliage beginning on interior needles
Yellow jackets	Adults	Douglas fir and true fir	Presence of ground or aerial nests. Control of aphids important

Diseases	Host	Symptoms
Grovesiella canker	True fir, especially grand and concolor	Large cankers with overgrowth at base of limbs resulting in death of branches
Phytophthora root rot	True fir., especially noble	Brown stem cankers with branch flagging resulting in death of trees

- The above pest problems are ones most often encountered. There may be other pests or diseases causing damage to your trees. Call your area Christmas tree inspector for specific help in diagnosis and control recommendations.

Nursery and Christmas Tree Program home page changes

Lisa Rehms, horticulturist

The nursery and Christmas tree home page is getting a 'face-lift.'

Our Web page, found at: <http://oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/NURSERY>, is undergoing various modifications to make it more user friendly to the nursery and Christmas tree industries.

One of the big changes, which is still under construction, is a profile section on pests and pathogens. Each pest and disease profile will eventually contain an introduction, a brief description and current Oregon regulations for each organism. From the nursery homepage, look for the 'pest and disease profiles' section on the left navigation bar. Click the common name of the organism to see the individual profiles.

Another new item on our home page is the 'nursery research grants' section. The Oregon Department of Agriculture funds the nursery and Christmas tree research grant programs. Nurseries and Christmas tree growers help fund this program with the purchase of a license. Eventually, the Christmas tree grant final reports will be listed on the home page. You can see final reports for the 2005 nursery grants by clicking on 'grants' at the left navigation bar of the nursery home page.

Yet another helpful item found on our home page is the 'fees and costs' section. This section describes the various costs for nursery and Christmas tree licenses, phytosanitary certificates, quarantine compliance certificates, survey programs, and laboratory fees. The fees and cost section is also listed on the left navigation bar of the nursery home page.

You can reach any of the inspectors via e-mail from the contact us page. Scroll down to the section called 'horticulturist' and click on any name. Questions and comments by way of the Web site are welcome. Please send your comments via e-mail to lehms@oda.state.or.us

Useful Web sites

Oregon Department of Agriculture

<http://oregon.gov/ODA>

Oregon State University Extension Service

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/index.php>

Washington State University Extension – Christmas Trees

<http://smallfarms.wsu.edu/crops/ChristmasTrees.html>

Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association

<http://nwtrees.com>

Pacific Northwest Insect Management Handbook's online version

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

Pacific Northwest Plant Disease Control Handbook's online version

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

Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook's online version

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

2006 Christmas Tree Advisory Committee

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