

# The Pitch & Needle



March 2008

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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](mailto: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 U.S. 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 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.
3. Obtain any necessary import permits and fax legible copies of them 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, information such as the number of certificates needed, 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 and, if needed, the 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 just as a precautionary procedure to determine whether any significant insect or disease problems are present.

## 2007 *P. ramorum* survey

The Oregon Department of Agriculture performed surveys for *Phytophthora ramorum*, the sudden oak death pathogen, in Christmas tree plantations from 2002 to 2006. The pathogen was never found. Based on five-years of free-from data, the USDA APHIS PPQ has agreed that annual surveys of Oregon Christmas tree plantations for *P. ramorum* are no longer necessary. Instead, surveys will be performed every two- to three-years to maintain free-from status. Christmas tree growers may opt to have their plantations tested in 2008. This service will be provided for a fee.

## Christmas tree exports for 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007

(Phytosanitary certificates)

Country	2004	2005	2006	2007
Aruba	2	3	-	-
Canada	1	52	18	12
Costa Rica	11	6	-	-
El Salvador	-	2	-	-
Guam	9	14	12	13
Guatemala	2	1	2	1
Hong Kong	19	24	21	22
Iraq	1	-	1	-
Hawaii	201	237	242	263
Japan	16	9	8	9
Korea	3	1	1	-
Mexico	1,340	1,501	1,766	1,554
Northern Mariana Islands	2	1	1	1
Pago Pago				
American Samoa	1	2	-	1
Palau	2	2	2	-
Panama	9	3	1	3
Peoples Republic of China	2	-	3	-
Philippines	2		1	1
Puerto Rico	18	66	75	84
Republic of Korea	7	1	1	-
Singapore	8	10	11	8
Taiwan	-	-	1	1
Thailand	-	-	1	-
Venezuela	-	-	1	-
<b>Yearly total</b>	<b>1,656</b>	<b>1,935</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>1,973</b>

# What to look for now

## Spring (March—May)

Insects	Life stage	Host	Symptoms
Balsam woolly adelgid	Adults	True fir (esp. Fraser)	White woolly masses on bark, swelling of branch nodes
Balsam twig aphid	Adults	True fir (esp. grand)	Small greenish aphids in tops or along branches, twisting of new growth
Douglas fir needle midge	Adults	Douglas fir	Place adult midge traps around April 1 and treat before bud break (if midges are found in traps)
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, esp. 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 esp. 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, esp. grand and concolor	Large cankers with overgrowth at base of limbs resulting in death of branches
Phytophthora root rot	True fir, esp. 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.

## Postcard from Hawaii

The following was an update from Hawaii during the Christmas shipping season provided by a representative of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

“Aloha all, with only a few more Christmas tree containers due to arrive, the ‘Christmas tree inspection season’ is almost over for us. Port of entry inspection went smoothly this year although we did have to disappoint a couple importers and their customers. Post-entry shaking was not an option for them and the shipments had to be sent back. Things were made worse this year by all the publicity. Our interceptions had never been this newsworthy in the past. Significant interceptions this year include assorted yellow jackets, Pacific tree frog, alligator lizard, and shrews.

“Our first ever shipment to arrive inside the entire cargo hold of a 747 was also, sadly, our first rejection of this kind. Over 3,000 trees (100 percent pre-entry shaken) were refused because there was no way to get that many trees out of the aircraft while keeping everything contained.”

“The airline (not the transportation company, grower, shipper etc.) was the one that called in a newspaper reporter before we even arrived to inspect the shipment (isn’t that odd?). I hope you all are surviving the storm systems there. We are having our own stormy weather in Hawaii but a lot of us like the wind and rain—makes a nice change and it feels wintry.”

## Federal phytosanitary certificate increase

ODA is raising the fee it charges for phytosanitary certificates. The change was necessary because USDA will soon require each state to collect a \$16 administrative charge for each federal phytosanitary certificate it issues. The change gives the department the authority to collect the \$16 charge from the shipper and pass it along to the USDA. ODA is also raising the amount the state charges for phytosanitary certificates from \$10 to \$15 to pay for the additional costs of collecting, processing, and remitting the USDA pass through administrative fee.

We expect USDA to begin collecting its \$16 administrative fee in the near future. ODA will start immediately collecting its increased \$15 phytosanitary fee in anticipation of USDA putting its fee in place. The total charge for each phytosanitary certificates on the enclosed invoice is \$15 per certificate. Once USDA institutes their administrative fee, the total charge for each certificate will increase to \$31.

## Christmas tree survey helps identify market strengths

Bruce Eklund

If you have not been able to make the time to complete the green Christmas tree survey, we would greatly appreciate it if you would do so. The data help Oregon producers and the industry make wise business decisions. Past survey data have been credited in helping the industry avoid or lessen a pending glut and have helped strategic marketing of promotional monies. Perhaps on a lighter note, the data may help North Carolinians reassess their claim that they are the number one producing state. Which reminds me to also encourage you to complete the Census of Agriculture if you have not. We want to accurately represent the importance of the Christmas tree.

The Oregon Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts these surveys. Not everyone with fifteen acres or less was sampled. If you have 15 acres or more and did not get a questionnaire or need another one, please call 503-326-2131 or 1-800-338-2157.

Bruce Eklund, Deputy Director  
Oregon Field Office  
Bruce\_Eklund@nass.usda.gov  
503-326-2131

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

Issued to	PRODUCT	EPA #	SLN #	PEST
Lawn and Garden Products	Sucker-Stopper RTU	5481-460-54705	OR-070005	Control leader length
Bayer CropScience	Axiom DF (Flufenacet and Metribuzin)	264-766	OR-040017	Rat tail fescue and other grasses
Dow AgroSciences	Kerb 50W (proamide) Restricted Use Pesticide	62719-397	OR-040029 (allows for aerial application)	grassy and other weeds
Syngenta Crop Protection	Subdue MAXX (mefenoxam)	100-796	OR-050004	Phytophthora ramorum
FMC	Capture 2E (bifenthrin) Restricted Use Pesticide	279-3069	OR-940041 canceled 2/12/2008 -replaced by OR-070015)	spruce mites and root weevils
FMC	Brigade 2EC (bifenthrin) Restricted Use Pesticide	279-3313	OR-070015	spruce mites and root weevils
AMVAC	Discipline @EC (bifenthrin) Restricted Use Pesticide	5481-517	OR-050005	spruce mites and root weevils
Chemtura USA Corporation	Omite 6E (propargite)	400-89	OR-030022	spider mites
Makhteshim-Agan	Thionex 50W (endosulfan) <b>Now a Restricted Use Pesticide</b>	66222-62	OR-030012 (includes aerial and some ground appli. methods)	eriophyid needle mite, Douglas fir need midge, and certain adelgids and aphids.
Makhteshim-Agan	Thionex 3EC (endosulfan) <b>Now a Restricted Use Pesticide</b>	66222-63	OR-030013 (includes aerial and some ground appli. methods)	same as OR-030012
Dow AgroSciences	Lorsban 4E (chlorpyrifos) Restricted Use Pesticide	62719-220	OR-050015 aerial application	Douglas fir needle midge, spider mites, and aphids

# Summary of the civil penalties regulation

Susan Schouten, Horticulturist

The intent of this regulation is to encourage compliance with plant protection and marketing regulatory requirements, provide ODA the authority to protect Oregon's natural resources, and to enhance the marketing of nursery and other agricultural products. Compliance is usually achieved by educating the public and industry of the regulatory regulations. Sometimes, however, a violation may be so serious and threatening that stronger measures become necessary. The ability to enforce these protections serves as an important, though hopefully secondary, educational tool.

Violations that may qualify for civil penalties fall into three categories of magnitude: major, moderate, and minor. The following table illustrates the amount of penalty that may be levied for each type of violation:

Magnitude of violation	First offense	Second offense	Third (or each additional) offense
Major	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000
Moderate	\$300	\$900	\$1,800
Minor	Written notice of violation	\$100	\$300

Examples of violations that fall under each of these levels of magnitude are as follows:

## Major

- A) Knowingly importing or transferring infested or infected plant material, or other regulated organisms into or within Oregon in violation of an agricultural quarantine order, quarantine rules and regulations, director's exemption, compliance agreement, or control area order.
- B) Using falsified or altered certificates or other official documents issued by a federal, state, or county phytosanitary official.
- C) Tampering with, altering, misrepresenting or falsifying in any manner official documents issued by a plant regulatory official.
- D) Providing false information required for issuance of documents or official certificates as required under agricultural quarantine orders, quarantine rules and regulations, director's exemptions, compliance agreements, control area orders, or imported timber products inspection program.
- E) Substituting uninspected plant material or regulated items for plant material or regulated items covered by a department inspection.
- F) Willful violation: a violation that is committed knowingly by a person, or the person's agent, who intentionally or knowingly disobeys or recklessly disregards the requirements of a statute, regulation, rule, or order.
- G) Repeat violations.

## Moderate

- A) Failure to license or refusal to license as a Christmas Tree Grower; Nursery Stock Grower or Collector of Native Plants; Greenhouse Grower of Herbaceous Plants; Nursery Dealer, Florist or Landscape Contractor.
- B) Importing or transferring infested or infected plant material, or other regulated items or regulated organisms into or within Oregon in violation of an agricultural quarantine order, quarantine rules and regulations, director's exemption, compliance agreement, or control area order.
- C) Knowingly falsifying all or part of any application for registration or licensing.
- D) Failure to pay imported timber products program inspection fees.
- E) Growing plants or conducting other activities requiring a compliance agreement with the department, without entering into said compliance agreement.

## Minor

- A) Failure to maintain proper certificates or paperwork as required by an agricultural quarantine order, quarantine rules and regulations, director's exemption, compliance agreement, control area order, or the timber products inspection program.
- B) Failure to notify the department as required by an agricultural quarantine order, quarantine rules and regulations, director's exemption, compliance agreement, control area order, or the timber products inspection program.
- C) Transporting or accepting for transportation plant material or regulated items that do not carry the official inspection documents required by the department.

For complete text of the civil penalties regulation, contact the ODA at 503-986-4644.

## Useful Web sites

- Oregon Department of Agriculture  
<http://oregon.gov/ODA>  
<http://oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/NURSERY>
- Oregon State University Extension Service  
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/index.php>
- Washington State Univ. Extension – Christmas trees  
<http://smallfarms.wsu.edu/crops/ChristmasTrees.html>
- Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association  
<http://nwtrees.com>
- Pacific Northwest Insect Management Handbook  
<http://pnwpest.org/pnw/insects>
- Pacific Northwest Plant Disease Control Handbook  
<http://plant-disease.ippc.orst.edu/intro.cfm>
- Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook  
<http://weeds.ippc.orst.edu/pnw/weeds>

## 2008 Christmas Tree Advisory Committee

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## Christmas tree license fee increase

### Amendment to OAR 603-054-0035

Aurora, Oregon, January 24, 2008

At an August 16, 2007 meeting, the ODA Christmas Tree Advisory Committee requested that ODA initiate a Christmas tree license fee increase. The committee felt a fee increase was needed to ensure ODA Christmas tree program revenues kept pace with inflation. In order to avoid a one-time steep increase in license fees, the committee also asked the ODA to increase license fees 3 percent per year for the next five years.

ODA's own financial analysis supports the need for this fee increase. This analysis concluded the program would operate at a deficit by the end of this biennium without the proposed fee increase. Because of this, the ODA supports the proposed fee increase.

The Notice of Hearing in this matter was issued November 15, 2007 and reads as follows: The proposed amendment would gradually raise fees for Christmas tree grower licenses for operations larger than 40 acres. The goal would be to maintain program funds at sustainable levels through incremental adjustments averaging 3 percent per year, through 2012.

This Notice of Hearing was published in the Oregon Bulletin of the Secretary of State on December 1, 2007 and was published in: Capitol Press, Oregonian, and Statesman Journal. The notice was also distributed to the news service and the known interested parties and organizations throughout the state.

Prepared and submitted by: Gary L. McAninch  
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