

The Pitch & Needle



September 2004

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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>.



Sudden Oak Death Certification Program

by Nancy Osterbauer, plant pathologist

Phytophthora ramorum, the cause of sudden oak death and ramorum leaf blight and dieback, is currently established in 13 counties in California and has been detected (and targeted for eradication) on 63 forested acres in Curry County, Oregon. This year, *P. ramorum* was also detected in several nurseries throughout the U.S., including 10 nurseries in Oregon. The discovery of the pathogen moving through plant stock prompted several states to adopt quarantines against west coast nurseries and other producers of susceptible plant materials such as Christmas tree growers. In addition to the actions taken by the individual states, the USDA adopted an executive order requiring all California-grown nursery stock be inspected and tested for *P. ramorum*.

In response to these regulatory actions, the ODA and industry members developed temporary regulations for *Phytophthora ramorum*-free programs for the nursery and Christmas tree industries. The programs require the inspection and testing of susceptible plant material being grown. All samples must be tested using USDA-approved protocols. If the plants are found free of *P. ramorum*, the grower is eligible to enter into a compliance agreement with the department and to receive certificates stating he/she is a program participant. **As of 8/18/04, testing has been completed on 55,235 samples from 1,207 growers (33% of them Christmas tree growers). As of 8/25/04, 526 of these growers have entered into compliance agreements and have received their certificates.**

The ODA has also worked with the 10 nurseries in Oregon that received infected plant materials. The USDA Confirmed Nursery Protocol was enacted at all 10 nurseries. Eight nurseries have completed the requirements of the USDA Confirmed Nursery Protocol, meaning that *P. ramorum* has been successfully eradicated at those sites. At two nurseries, the pathogen spread to neighboring, susceptible nursery stock which required more extensive clean-up activities. These two nurseries are in the process of meeting the final requirements to be declared free of *P. ramorum*.

Hold your ground... before it goes downstream!

by Lisa Bucy, water quality planner, Natural Resources Division

The summer is coming to a close, so harvest season must be on the horizon! Soon Christmas trees will be dangling from helicopters and traveling across the country on semi-truck trailers. After the chain saws are silent and plans are being made to plant the next crop of Christmas trees, it is a good time to consider your fields and how to protect your most precious resource, the soil.

It is quite common in Oregon to find Christmas trees growing on slopes where plenty of rainy days keep the trees green and growing. The rain that makes crops flourish also causes erosion of the most important component of your growing operation, your healthy soil.

Not only does the loss of productive topsoil cause an environmental concern when it reaches surface water, but there are financial costs to county budgets when ditches fill with sediment, block culverts and flood roads. Growers also see costs associated with the loss of fertile topsoil and productivity. Additional fertilizers and chemicals are needed to produce marketable trees when you have lost your good topsoil. This reduces the profit margin of your operation and its long-term viability.

There are also regulatory reasons for keeping your soil on your place. Under Senate Bill 1010 (the state agricultural water quality act), local water quality plans and rules address water quality concerns for each subbasin area. However, in all subbasins, agricultural landowners/operators must prevent and control water pollution from agricultural activities or soil erosion. When there is a complaint against an agricultural operation, the Oregon Department of Agriculture works with landowners to solve their water quality problems. There is however, an enforcement process that is activated if there is no cooperation from the landowner.

Many practices and management techniques may be implemented to keep soil from eroding during the winter months. For instance, cover crops and grass

strips keep the soil on the field where it belongs. Straw mulch helps dissipate raindrop energy and holds topsoil in place. When soil does start to move, filter strips and field borders keep sediment out of ditches and off roads. Incorporating organic matter into the soil before planting improves the soil structure and reduces erosion potential.

Your local Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, or OSU Cooperative Extension specialist can provide technical assistance in solving your erosion problem. You can also look to leaders in the industry who have tried new or creative ways to control erosion. Most people are happy to share their experiences with different management practices. Remember that all fields are different and you know your land better than anyone else, so now is the time to start thinking about ways to protect your most valuable natural resource.

2004 Christmas tree certification requirements for shipments to states and territories of the United States

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 requesting certificates. Requests need to be scheduled as far in advance as possible. Destination shipping requirements are subject to change.

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 4-hour turnaround 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 on Arizona's quarantine list is cause for rejection.

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

California

1. County of origin and species of Christmas tree (Douglas-fir, Scotch pine, etc.) must appear on shipping documents. Mail-order Christmas trees shipped via US Mail, UPS, Federal Express, etc. to customers in California 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.
2. 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 2004 trapping season. Contact your area horticulturist for additional information. Only certificates dated 6/1/04 to 5/31/05 are valid and may be obtained for eligible growing locations by calling the department horticulturist for your area at 503-986-4644.

3. 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.
4. 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, Jefferson, Lane, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Washington, and Yamill) 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.

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 Certification of Oregon Grown Christmas Trees destined for the States of Florida, North Carolina and Virginia." The deadline for signing and returning the compliance agreement to the Department of Agriculture is October 15, 2004. In addition, a European brown garden snail certificate is required.

Shipping pines to California

California's European pine shoot moth (EPSM) and cereal leaf beetle (CLB) quarantines remain in effect. All cut pine Christmas trees shipped into California must be accompanied by a certificate verifying that the trees came from an area that was trapped and California EPSM quarantine requirements have been met. In addition, a CLB certificate must also accompany all Scotch, red and Austrian pines. Scotch, red or Austrian pines originating in CLB infested counties must be fumigated in order to qualify for certification. Pines from uninfested counties may be shipped provided a CLB origin certificate accompanies them. Cut pine Christmas trees may transit through California without EPSM certification provided they are shipped in an enclosed container. Scotch, red and Austrian pines transiting through California must be accompanied by a "CLB STATEMENT OF TRANSIT COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT" See California shipping requirements for details.

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. The requirements for Christmas tree shipments to Hawaii will be the same as 2003. Trees shipped to Hawaii must be shaken to qualify for certification. Shaking options are:
 - a. 10 percent of Christmas trees in each consignment may be manually shaken by striking the butt of the tree on a hard surface. The debris shaken from each tree must be examined for the presence of live insect pests by an inspector. If live yellow jacket queens are found in any sampled trees in the consignment, all trees must be manually shaken.
 - b. 100% of the trees in the consignment may receive mechanical shaking (motor or PTO driven shaking unit).



3. An Oregon state phytosanitary certificate must accompany the inspected shipment. Shaking procedure used will be noted on the certificate. Certificates should be placed in a waterproof plastic envelope and securely attached to the inside of the container door.
4. Shipments of certified Christmas trees will undergo cursory destination inspection for yellow jacket queens on arrival in Honolulu.
5. Shipments of uncertified Christmas trees will receive thorough destination inspection for insect pests by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Guam and other Pacific Trust Islands

Oregon state phytosanitary certificate is required.

Mississippi

Christmas trees and wreath material of *Pseudotsuga spp.* and *Abies spp.* are prohibited entry due to a new quarantine for sudden oak death. Contact your area horticulturist at 503-986-4644 for additional information or possible updates.

New Mexico

Shipping document showing origin of trees required.

North Carolina

Same as Florida, in addition, pre-notification is required. Notification can be forwarded via fax @119-773-1041, attn: Dan Wall or e-mail at <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 cut pine Christmas trees in this consignment are free from pine shoot beetle, *Tomicus piniperda*.” All shipments are inspected on arrival.

Virginia

Same as Florida.

2004 Christmas tree certification to foreign countries

Canada

Canadian customs invoice required. Shipments of cut pine Christmas trees, wreaths, and boughs to all provinces must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate. The phytosanitary certificate must have the following additional declaration: “The pine Christmas trees in this consignment were grown in an area known not to be infested with pine shoot beetle, *Tomicus piniperda*.” Phytosanitary certificates are not required for other species of cut Christmas trees shipped to Canada.

Costa Rica

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

El Salvador

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 a shipment because of live insects or dead or diseased needles, it would be advisable to process the trees with a mechanical shaker.

Korea

Federal phytosanitary certificate is required. Pine prohibited. Douglas-fir prohibited from Columbia and Curry counties. Grand fir from Columbia and Curry counties, additional declaration: "This shipment is believed to be free from sudden oak death." Trees and containers must be free of soil.

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:

- If required, obtain Import permit first
- The trees must be inspected prior to harvest
- Shipped trees must be mechanically shaken prior to shipping and must be clean and free from dead branches and twigs or yellow and red needles caused by pests or diseases
- Trees must not be dyed or flocked unless prior arrangements have been made with the Mexican Forestry Department.
- Trees must be free of pine shoot beetle, European pine shoot moth, white pine blister rust and gypsy moth

- Numerous class 2 organisms are also prohibited or have established tolerance levels. Some of these organisms include pine needle scale, Douglas fir twig weevil, Engleman spruce weevil, black pineleaf scale, etc. A complete list is available from ODA or USDA/APHIS.
- 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.

Singapore

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

Taiwan

PC is required. Trees and containers must be free of soil. Additional declaration: "This shipment has been thoroughly inspected and found free from long-horned beetle and pinewood nematode."

The Philippines

PC and IP are 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.

European brown garden snail compliance agreement

As authorized in ORS 570.305 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

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
_____	Sudden oak death 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 preharvest 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 of 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 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, 2004 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.
4. 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.



Phytosanitary certificates

Phytosanitary certification is provided by Oregon Department of Agriculture personnel. To schedule certification, call at least five (5) days before the shipping date. Phytosanitary certificates are generally valid for 14 days. Inspections are scheduled on a first call basis. There is a \$20 fee for the first phytosanitary certificate issued in a billing cycle, and \$10 for each phytosanitary certificate thereafter.

Questions regarding Christmas tree shipping should be directed to your department horticulturist at 503-986-4644.



2004 Christmas Tree Advisory Committee

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