

The Pitch & Needle

September 2005



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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 email <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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2005 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 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

1. 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.
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 2005 trapping season. Contact your area horticulturist for additional information. Only certificates dated 6/1/05 to 5/31/06 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

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 that 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.

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.

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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, 2005. 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. The requirements for Christmas tree shipments to Hawaii will be the same as 2004. 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.

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 to 919-773-1041, 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*, and gypsy moth, *Lymantria dispar*. 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.



2005 Christmas tree certification to foreign countries

Canada

Canadian customs invoice required. Shipments, to all provinces, of cut pine Christmas trees, wreaths, and boughs 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. 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

Woody plants are prohibited. Do not certify unless an import permit is presented.

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. 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.

Panama

Import permit and federal phytosanitary certificate showing the the trees' origin are required.

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

Federal phytosanitary certificate and import permit required. All trees require fumigation. Trees and containers must be free of soil.

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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.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida | Number of truck loads _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina | Number of truck loads _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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
_____	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 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

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.

2005 *P. ramorum* survey

Sherree Lewis, horticulturist

In the spring of this year, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) surveyed a sampling of Christmas tree plantations (*Abies spp. and Pseudotsuga menziesii*) from several counties for *P. ramorum*.

The number of fields surveyed in each county varied depending upon the total acreage of Christmas trees grown in that county. The goal of the survey was to maintain the *P. ramorum* free status for Oregon-grown Christmas trees. A total of 103 fields were visually inspected, with 4,190 samples collected for testing (about 41 samples per field.) *P. ramorum* was not detected at any of the growing areas, nor any other *Phytophthora* species. This is the fourth year in a row that no *P. ramorum* has been detected in Oregon Christmas tree plantations. Based on these results, all counties surveyed are officially declared free of *P. ramorum* for 2005.

Mailing/shipping labels

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.

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 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, 2005 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.

Sanitation and shipping Christmas trees

Jan Hedberg, lead horticulturist

Christmas tree growers and shippers often need to ship their product to customers in other states and countries. We often get requests for information regarding the regulations to ship these trees. The goal is to get the trees to the customers with as little hassle and delay as possible.

Generally speaking, Oregon has few pests or diseases of regulatory significance. Considering the amount of trees that are shipped each year, there are very few shipping hold-ups or regulatory incidences. This is good, but like many things in life, if yours is the shipment being held, rejected, or destroyed, it really does not make you feel great. The question could be asked, "How can I best assure myself that my trees will be accepted?"

First, grow the best trees that you can. Become knowledgeable about pests and diseases of Christmas trees. Scout your fields, look for problems, and then deal with them.

Second, learn what the requirements are for shipping to your customer. This newsletter has a listing of requirements for many locations, but ask your ODA horticulturist if you are not sure.

Third, try to implement some basic sanitation practices into your harvest and shipping program. Often the reason that trees are held or rejected is because of hitchhiking pests or debris. When an inspector opens up the back of a truck or container and finds slugs, pop cans, or weeds, questions about the general health and cleanliness of the shipment come to mind. Mechanically shaking the trees before bailing seems to help. Some growers have shipped successfully to foreign markets by simply washing trees with water from a hose or power washer. Mud, dirt, weeds, snakes, seeds, broken and dead branches, and squirrels do nothing but confuse the inspection issue.

Your customers, and their agricultural officials, are looking for clean trees free of pests, diseases, and weeds. If you give them what they want, I bet that you will see fewer trucks or containers being held and more repeat customers happy to purchase your Christmas trees.

Reminder...

European brown garden snail certificate must still accompany each shipment.

Useful Web sites

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/christmastreesindex.htm>

Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association

<http://nwtrees.com>

2005 Christmas Tree Advisory Committee

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