

THE PITCH & NEEDLE

SEPTEMBER, 2016



Contents

Plan ahead for Christmas tree exports _____	2
2016 Christmas tree certification requirements, an introduction _____	2
Shipping Christmas trees to states and territories within the United States _____	3-5
Shipping Christmas trees to foreign countries _____	5-8
Holiday wreath shipping information _____	9
Shipping wreaths to foreign countries _____	9
New Resources for Christmas Tree Growers _____	10
Certification Request form _____	11
Masters Permit Program for Florida, North Carolina, and Virginia _____	12
Exotic Phytophagous Snail compliance agreement _____	13
2016 Christmas tree shaking & treatment compliance agreement _____	14
PCIT and Christmas trees _____	15
Useful websites _____	16
State of Oregon Holiday Schedule _____	16
2016 Christmas Tree Advisory Committee _____	17

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The Pitch & Needle is an 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 newsletter, 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 Lisa Rehms via email at lrehms@oda.state.or.us

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Plan ahead for Christmas tree exports

By Dennis Magnello, ODA Horticulturist (Retired)

Sending Christmas trees to foreign countries or U.S. territories overseas? If so, please follow the guidelines below for a hassle-reduced shipping season.

- Plan ahead and notify the inspector in your area if you are planning on shipping by sending a completed Christmas tree certification request form to the ODA (instructions and form, page 11). Supply your inspector with the following information: location where they are shipping, approximate date of shipment, species of trees, location of field (be specific, i.e. what part of the field if only a section is to be cut and shipped). Aerial photos are handy if it's a large plantation. If growers are shipping domestically and need shipping permits, call ahead of time and inspection and results will be completed in a timely manner.
- Determine the import requirements for the destination country or territory. Ask your ODA Christmas tree inspector for the most current information, or refer to the appropriate section in the September issue of the Pitch and Needle. Be aware that information provided by the customer is not always accurate.
- Obtain any necessary Import Permits from your host country contact (buyer or broker). Provide ODA with a list and maps of the plantations from which your Christmas trees for export will be harvested, as well as a list of the countries and territories to which the trees will be shipped. Trees will then be inspected in the field, ideally in September and early October, to determine if they meet the host country's import requirements.
- Submit your requests for Phytosanitary Certificates through the PCIT online certification system. See the article in this publication entitled 'PCIT and Christmas Trees' for details. Requests should be made a minimum of two days in advance.

ODA inspectors will be glad to inspect fields of non-export Christmas trees also, per your request.

2016 Christmas tree certification requirements, an introduction

Below is a summary of requirements to ship cut Christmas trees to states and territories of the United States, and to selected foreign countries. Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) personnel provide inspections and certifications. Review the information in the summary and contact the department to arrange field inspections prior to harvest and certification. Please provide at least five 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. Shipping to foreign countries and a few domestic destinations requires an electronically filed application on the phytosanitary certification issuance and tracking system (PCIT) (<https://pcit.aphis.usda.gov/pcit/faces/signIn.jsf>). 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 a list of all growers and growing locations from which Christmas tree harvest and shipping will occur to the ODA Nursery and Christmas Tree Program.

2016 Christmas tree certification requirements for shipments to states and territories of the US

Shipping Christmas trees to states and territories within the United States

All bills of lading, invoices, and bills of sale should include 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.

California—Oregon Christmas tree shipping permit required.

1. County of origin and species of Christmas tree (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*, *Abies grandis*, 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 2016 trapping season. Contact your area horticulturist for additional information. Only certificates dated 6/1/16 to 5/31/17 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.
4. Cut Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Grand fir (*Abies grandis*), and White fir (*Abies concolor*) from Curry county must be certified free of *Phytophthora ramorum*.

Delaware—Oregon Christmas tree shipping permit is required.

Florida—Signed Exotic Phytophagous Snail Compliance Agreement (form, page 12) with the ODA. The deadline for signing and returning the compliance agreement to the Department of Agriculture is October 15, 2016. In addition, a European brown garden snail certificate is required.

Hawaii—State phytosanitary certificate required.

1. 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. An ODA Shaking Compliance Agreement is required. 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. Each containerized shipment of trees shall be accompanied by a valid phytosanitary certificate that has been issued at the point of origin by an ODA inspector. 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 Honolulu by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDA). If no certificate is provided at the inspection, the HDA 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—Same requirements as Mexico. Contact your ODA inspector for more details as import permit may be needed.

North Carolina—Signed Exotic Phytophagous Snail Compliance Agreement with the ODA. The deadline for signing and returning the compliance agreement to the Department of Agriculture is October 15, 2016. A European brown garden snail certificate is required. In addition, pre-notification is required. Fax notification to 919-733-1041.

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—Signed Exotic Phytophagous Snail Compliance Agreement with the ODA. The deadline for signing and returning the compliance agreement to the Department of Agriculture is October 15, 2016. In addition, a European brown garden snail certificate is required.

Shipping regulations for international Christmas tree exports for 2016:

Aruba—No known requirements, but certificates can be issued.

Canada—Canadian customs invoice required. Shipments must be accompanied by documents verifying their origin. From all counties in Oregon except Curry County, true fir (*Abies spp*), and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) Christmas trees are unrestricted between November 1 and January 31. Between February 01 and October 31 an Import Permit and Phytosanitary Certificate are required. For fresh Pine wreaths, the state of origin must be specified. Cut Christmas trees from Curry County require an Import Permit and Phytosanitary Certificate.

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. Shipments infested with pests on arrival may be fumigated, refused entry or destroyed.

Korea—Federal phytosanitary certificate is required. Pine prohibited. Douglas fir is prohibited from Curry county. Trees and containers must be free of soil. Additional declaration, “This shipment was inspected and found free of *Phytophthora ramorum*.” The county and state of origin must be noted on the PC.

Mexico—A federal phytosanitary certificate issued by the ODA is required for all Christmas trees shipped to Mexico. Mexico’s shipping regulations do not require you to obtain an import permit in order to ship *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, *Abies spp.*, or some species of *Pinus*, including *Pinus nigra* (Austrian pine) and *P. sylvestris* (Scotch pine). All other Christmas trees, including 25 species of *Pinus* (ones that are carriers of pine blister rust, *Cronartium ribicola*, are prohibited and require an import permit, see below for complete listing).

Exporters should provide their ODA Inspectors with a list of fields to be inspected well in advance of shipping. Inspectors will determine which fields are eligible for certification based on results of inspections for quarantine and non-quarantine pests. The tolerance level for non-quarantine pests is generally an infestation rate of two percent or less of the trees.

If you plan to ship Christmas trees to Mexico this year, you will need to sign a compliance agreement ensuring the trees you are shipping meet Mexico’s shaking and treatment requirements. The following conditions must be met:

1. Federal phytosanitary Certificate issued at the state and county of origin, which includes the complete name of the plantation from where the consignment is coming from as well as the following additional declaration: ‘The trees of this shipment were inspected, it was determined that the shipment complies with the phytosanitary requirements, and found free of quarantine pests for Mexico in accordance with NOM-013-SEMARNAT-2010’. The quantity of trees listed on the phytosanitary certificate must be as close to the quantity listed on the invoice as possible.
2. Christmas trees intended for export to Mexico must have a pest control program. A pesticide treatment is required 3 to 6 weeks prior to harvest using one of the following insecticides in accordance with doses recommended on the label:
Esfenvalerate (8.4% active ingredient)- Dupont Asana XL, EPA Reg. No. 59639-206, S-FenvaloStar (LG International), EPA Reg. No. 71532-21-73006, S-FenvaloStar (LG Life Science America), EPA Reg. No. 71532-21-91026, or Zyrate Insecticide (Rotam North America) EPA Reg. No. 71532-21-83979.
3. Christmas trees shipped to Mexico must be free (zero tolerance) of the following quarantined pests:

Insects:

Choristoneura fumiferana (Spruce budworm), *Choristoneura occidentalis* (Western spruce budworm,) *Contarinia constricta* (Douglas-fir needle midge), *Cylindrocopturus furnissi* (Douglas-fir twig weevil), *Diprion similis* (Pine sawfly), *Lymantria dispar* (gypsy moth)*, *Orgyia pseudotsugata* (Douglas-fir tussock moth), *Paradiplosis tumifex* (Balsam gall midge), *Pissodes stobi* (White pine weevil), *Rhyacionia buoliana* (European pine shoot moth), *Tomicus piniperda* (Pine shoot beetle), *Vespula germanica* (European wasp)

*Christmas trees coming from plantations located in the counties where the NPPO of Canada and the U.S., report presence of *Lymantria dispar*, in accordance with the listings specified in

Annex 1 of the existing regulation, whose up-to-date information can be found under the terms outlined in this annex, are not allowed to be imported.

Mites:

Nalepella ednae (Eriophyid mite), *Epitrimerus pseudotsugae* (Eriophyid mite)

Disease:

Cronartium quercum var. *fusiform* (Pine stem rust), *Cronartium ribicola* (White pine blister rust)*, *Diaporthe lokoyae* (Phomopsis canker), *Grovesiella abieticola* (Grovesiella canker), *Lophodermium seditiosum* (Lophodermium needle cast), *Phomopsis lokoyae* (Phomopsis canker), *Phytophthora ramorum* (Ramorum blight), *Rhabdocline pseudotsugae* (Rhabdocline needle cast), *Rhabdocline weirii* (Rhabdocline needle cast)

* The importation of the following species of *Pinus* is not allowed because they are carriers of *Cronartium ribicola*: *Pinus albicaulis*, *P. aristata*, *P. armandii*, *P. ayacahuite*, *P. balfouriana*, *P. cembra*, *P. dalantensis*, *P. fenzeliana*, *P. flexilis*, *P. griffithi*, *P. himekomatsu*, *P. koriaensis*, *P. lambertiana*, *P. monticola*, *P. morrisonicola*, *P. parvifolia*, *P. peuce*, *P. pentaphylla*, *P. pumila*, *P. reflexa*, *P. sibirica*, *P. strobiformis*, *P. strobus*, *P. wallichiana*, *P. wangii*.

4. The trees must be free of dead branches, twigs, and yellow or red needles caused by pests or diseases.

5. The trees must be mechanically shaken for at least 15 seconds at a minimum of 700 revolutions per minute before transport. An ODA Shaking Compliance Agreement (form, page 13) is required.

6. The trees must be without roots and soil and not painted.

7. Trees must enter Mexico at one of the approved 'points of entry' listed below. If a specific point of entry is known, it can be listed on the phytosanitary certificate. In this case, the shipment must cross at the 'point of entry' listed on the certificate. If the point of entry is not known or is uncertain, the point of entry should be listed as 'Mexico' on the certificate. If Mexico is listed as the point of entry on the certificate, the shipment may cross at any of the approved points of entry. Approved points of entry include: Acapulco, Gro., Agua prieta, Son., Altamira, Tam., Cd. Hidalgo, Chia., Cd. Juarez, Chih., Cd. M. Aleman, Tam., Ciudad Acuna, Coahuila, Coatzacoalcos, Ver., Columbia, NL, Ensenada, BC, Lazaro Cardenas, Mich., Manzanillo, Col., Matamoros, Tam., Mazatlan, Sin., Merida (Progreso, Yuc., Mexicali, BC, Mexico City, DF, Nuevo Laredo, Tam., Nogales, Son., Ojinaga, Chih., Piedras Negras, Coah., Reynosa, Tam., Salina Cruz, Oxa., San Luis. R. c., Son., Subtenente Lopez, QRoo, Tampico, Tam., Tecate, BC, Tijuana, BC, Topolobampo, Sin. and Veracruz, Ver.

8. The shipment of trees for will be inspected by official or it will verified by a unit of condition.

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

Panama—Import permit and federal phytosanitary certificate are required. For *Abies spp.* an extensive additional declaration is required. The commodity must be free of soil and should be packed only with nylon thread. Packaging material must not be made of plant material.

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

Taiwan—Trees and branches of *Abies spp.* and *Pseudotsuga menziesii* are prohibited. An Import Permit must be presented prior to certification. Trees and branches of *Pinus spp.* must be inspected and found free of *Burcehpelenchus xylophilus* and *Monchamus alternatus*, or treated with an appropriate nematicide.

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.

Additional information:

For additional information regarding shipping Christmas trees see the current the Exotic Phytophagous Snail Compliance Agreement (form, page 13) and ODA Shaking Compliance Agreement (form, page 14).

Holiday wreath shipping information

Shipping to other states—Most states, including Oregon, do not regulate cut flowers, cut branches and products produced from them such as wreaths, garlands, door/swags and 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 Christmas holiday season approaches for the shipping of bulk and finished Christmas greens, the following information may assist the delivery of your product to your customers in other states. The State of California's labeling requirements are the most restrictive, therefore if your labels comply with the California requirements, the labels meet the requirement of all other states.

For bulk shipments of greens or finished wreaths your invoice or bill of lading must include the following information: your company's name and address, statement of origin such as: "Manufactured in Marion County," the name and address of the consignee, and an itemized list of the products included in the consignment.

For direct market sales, your mailing or shipping label must include: your company's name and address, statement of origin, consignee's name and address, and 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.



Shipping wreaths to foreign countries

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

New Resources for Christmas Tree Growers

By Chal Landgren, OSU Extension Christmas Tree Specialist

Two new publications, *Identifying and Managing Christmas Tree Diseases, Pests and Other Problems* and *Best Management Practices for Tree Export* are available for Christmas tree growers. Both are in English and Spanish, and are designed for field use with weather resistant paper.

Identifying and Managing Christmas Tree Diseases, Pests and Other Problems (PNW 659).

Costs \$33.00 and describes the 33 most common problems growers may encounter from diseases, insects, disorders and a wide variety of damages-chemical, weather, animals and mechanical. Think of it as a dollar a problem. The guidebook is organized around problem signs and symptoms, hints on where and how to look, your management options with calendars and many photos. The guide may be mail-ordered at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/abstract.php?seriesno=pnw+659>. Or, by the time you receive Pitch and Needle, both guidebooks will be available at the PNW Christmas tree Growers Association office in Salem and at NWREC, Aurora, OR.

Best Management Practices for Tree Export

Successfully harvesting and shipping Christmas trees is the lifeblood of our industry. Part of that success involves knowing how to produce and export trees that meet and, hopefully, surpass the pest or phytosanitary requirements of the state or country where they will be sold. (EM9093). Cost is \$22.50 and is available at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/abstract.php?seriesno=EM+9093>.

The guide focuses on the most commonly intercepted insect pests on export shipments from Oregon. These include slugs, Douglas-fir needle midge, yellow jackets, root weevils and Douglas-fir twig weevil. For each pest, information is given relating to biology, how to best scout and monitor, management options, as well as calendars to help with timing of these actions throughout the year in the field.

INSPECTION AND 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.

<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Type of certification</i>
_____	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:

<i>Country or area of destination</i>	<i>Approximate number of loads</i>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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, pine, etc.) and include maps, addresses, and other references as needed.

Return completed form to:
 Sue Nash
 Oregon Department of Agriculture
 635 Capitol Street NE
 Salem, Oregon 97301
 503-986-4783 (fax)
snash@oda.state.or.us

Masters Permit Program for Florida, North Carolina, and Virginia

Gary McAninch, ODA Program Supervisor

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.

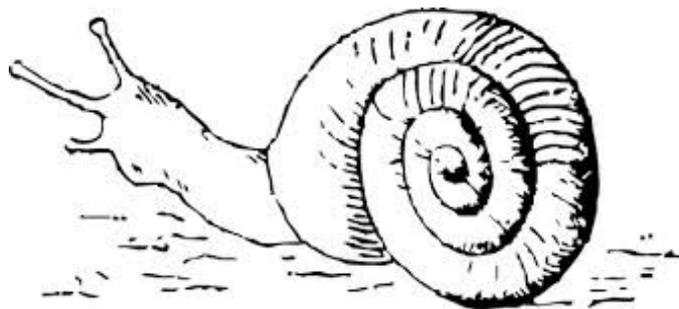
To meet the Master Permit Program requirements for shipping Christmas trees to Florida, North Carolina, and Virginia, Oregon Christmas tree growers must comply with the following.

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, 2016 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.



Exotic Phytophagous 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 exotic phytophagous snails, including European brown garden snail, 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 exotic phytophagous snails.

Business name: _____ License#: _____ (please print)

Owner's name: _____

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

2016 CHRISTMAS TREE SHAKING & TREATMENT COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT

The Oregon Department of Agriculture is required to certify that all Christmas trees shipped to Mexico, Hawaii, or Guam have been mechanically shaken. In addition, trees shipped to Mexico and Guam are required to be treated with an approved insecticide prior to shipment. All growers shipping Christmas trees to Mexico, Hawaii, or Guam must complete this compliance agreement as part of the certification process.

Business Name: _____ License #: _____

Address: _____

City	State	Zip	County
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Telephone: _____

The grower agrees to the following conditions for all Christmas trees shipped to Hawaii, Mexico, or Guam:

Shaking (Mexico, Hawaii, & Guam):

- ** To ship only Christmas trees inspected and certified by Oregon Department of Agriculture.
- ** Prior to baling 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 needles fall off. Trees going to Mexico and Guam are required to be shaken for at least 15 seconds at a minimum of 700 revolutions per minute.
- ** To load trees onto the truck as soon as possible after shaking in order to prevent reinfestation by insects such a yellow jackets, weevils, slugs, snails, etc. If trees must be stored after shaking and before loading, they should be placed on a surface other than bare ground (concrete, plastic sheeting, etc.) and covered with netting or screening to prevent reinfestation.

Treatment (Mexico & Guam only):

- ** To treat trees 3 to 6 weeks prior to harvest with an approved insecticide. Mexico & Guam have approved the following insecticides: esfenvalerate 8.4% active ingredient
- ** To maintain and make available to ODA personnel upon request, records indicating the date of treatment and the active ingredient used. These records could include sales receipts for the purchase of the insecticides or invoice supplied by a commercial pesticide applicator.

Noncompliance with the requirements stated herein may result in suspension or revocation of certification to ship Christmas trees to Mexico, Hawaii, or Guam. Otherwise, this agreement shall remain in force until revoked by either the Oregon Department of Agriculture or by expiration (see below).

Grower's Signature _____ Date _____

Expiration Date: December 31, 2016

Return form to: Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, Plant Programs, 635 Capitol St. NE, Salem, OR 97301-2532
Fax number: 503/986-4786; E-mail <snash@oda.state.or.us>

PCIT and Christmas Trees

By Dennis Magnello, ODA Horticulturist (Retired)

What is PCIT?

PCIT is an acronym for Phytosanitary Certification Issuance and Tracking, a web-based system administered by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS).

What is PCIT used for?

PCIT is used to issue, store and track electronic copies of State and Federal export certificates, including phytosanitary certificates (PCs). Exporters will continue to receive original paper certificates.

Who is required to use PCIT?

All exporters of Christmas trees and other commodities are required to use the PCIT system to submit requests for State and Federal phytosanitary certificates and other export certificates.

Where do I begin?

To use PCIT, you must first establish a USDA eAuthentication account. You can find instructions for creating a new account on the PCIT website at <https://pcit.aphis.usda.gov/pcit/>. Follow the directions on the sign-up menu for level one access. If you need assistance setting up your account, contact the PCIT help desk at pcithelpdesk@aphis.usda.gov or 1-888-457-7248.

How do I use PCIT?

Once you have established an eAuthentication account, you may use PCIT to create and submit applications for PCs. Log on to PCIT and follow the instructions under "Industry Users Quick Reference Guide." For assistance, contact the PCIT help desk, Sue Nash at the ODA Plant Division office at 503-986-4640, or your ODA Christmas tree inspector.

What type of certificates do I need?

When required, Federal PCs are used for certifying exports to countries and non-U.S. territories outside the United States. State of Oregon PCs may be needed for certain states, such as Hawaii, or U.S. territories such as Puerto Rico or Guam.

How much do the PCs cost and how do I pay for them?

The fee is \$31 each for Federal phytosanitary certificates and \$25 each for State of Oregon PCs. Before your request for certificates can be processed, you must transfer the appropriate amount of funds into a financial management account in PCIT. To do so, log on to PCIT and follow the instructions in the Industry Users Quick Reference Guide under "Adding Funds to an Organization's Account in PCIT." The "Financial Management" link in PCIT may also be used to review financial transactions.

Useful Websites

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

- Homepage: www.oregon.gov/ODA
- Nursery/Christmas Tree Program: www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NurseryChristmasTree
- Pesticide Program: www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Pesticides

Oregon State University (OSU)

- OSU Extension Service: extension.oregonstate.edu
- Oregon State University Extension Catalog Page (Publications for Christmas Tree growers): catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu
(Enter the search term 'Christmas Trees' - 'out of stock' publications are viewable)
- IPM Resources for Christmas Trees: www.certifiedchristmastrees.org/christmas-tree-management-resources.html
- Developing a Sustainability Plan for Your Christmas Tree Farm: www.pnwcta.org/serf/SERFCertifiersGuide.pdf

Washington State

- Washington State Department of Agriculture, Christmas Tree Growers: agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/ChristmasTreeLicense/ChristmasTree.aspx

Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association

- PNW Christmas Tree Association Home Page: www.nwchristmastrees.org

State of Oregon 2016/2017 Holiday Schedule:

November 11, 2016, - Veterans Day
November 24, 2017, Thursday - Thanksgiving
December 26, 2017, Monday - Christmas
January 2, 2017, Friday - New Years
January 6, 2017, Monday - MLK Jr. Day
February 20, 2017, Monday - President's Day
May 29, 2017, Monday - Memorial Day
July 4, 2017, Tuesday - Independence Day
September 5, 2017, Monday - Labor Day
November 10, 2017 Friday - Veterans Day
November 23, 2017, Thursday - Thanksgiving
December 25, 2017, Monday - Christmas

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