



Washington State Christmas Tree Growers Advisory Committee

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A Note from Your Advisory Committee

We would like to take this time to touch on some key points from the last WSDA Christmas Tree Advisory Committee meeting in September.

The good news is it looks like the threat of *P. ramorum* has died down. The bad news is there looks to be quite an outbreak of gypsy moth this year. Trappings have counted over 40 catches, with a normal year in the single digits. This was a big issue in the 1980s with shipments to California. We had a great presentation from Jim Marra, WSDA Pest Program Manager at the meeting, and yes, this is alarming. We are waiting to see how this will be handled at this time.

Much of our funds have been used

by Gary Chastagner for research pertaining to disease control, root fungus, needle retention and tolerance for hot water dip treatments. We helped fund a new building that will be used for those needle retention and hot water treatment studies at WSU Puyallup. Gary's work has been very valuable in our ability to grow high quality Christmas trees that stay fresh.

Stickers for licensed Washington State Christmas tree growers are now available for purchase. These may be used for any paperwork you have for shipments this year. See the reverse for information on ordering stickers.

There are some recent changes at WSDA in the last year. We're glad to welcome Cindy Cooper as the

new Plant Services Program Manager, replacing Tom Wessels who retired in December. Brad White is the Plant Protection Assistant Director, replacing Mary Toohey, who recently retired. Congratulations to all.

At this time we want to tell all you growers what a great relationship we have with the WSDA. From what we hear from growers around the country, we are very fortunate.

They are very responsive to our ideas, and yes, we are working on making the online renewal easier!

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact any of us on the committee.

- John Tillman
Tillman Christmas Trees

New Resources for Christmas Tree Growers

By Chal Landgren, OSU Extension Christmas Tree Specialist
Reprinted with permission from *The Pitch & Needle*, Sept. 2015, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

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). This one 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 *Pitch and Needle* (is published), both guidebooks will be available at the PNW Christmas Tree Growers Association office in

Salem and at NWREC, Aurora, Or. (my office).

The guide is titled **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). The 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.



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Benefits to Industry:

Since 2012, the WSDA Christmas Tree License Program (CTLP) has provided:

- A total of \$24,500 in support of ongoing disease and postharvest quality research
 - WSU research on management of adelgids
 - WSU research on disease resistant varieties
 - WSU research on post harvest needle retention
- A direct line of communication between growers and WSDA/USDA in the event of a quarantine.



«BusinessName»

«Address»

«CSZ»

A list of currently licensed growers, advisory committee roster and meeting minutes can be found on our website:

<http://agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/ChristmasTreeLicense/ChristmasTree.aspx>

Christmas Tree Program (WAC 16-401)

Chapter 16-401 WAC requires all Christmas tree growers, except those exempted below, to obtain a Christmas tree grower license. The Christmas tree grower license consists of a \$40 annual license fee plus a \$3 per acre assessment with a maximum of \$5,000. The licensing period for a Christmas tree grower license is February 1 to January 31.

Christmas tree growers whose business consists solely of retail sales are exempt from the licensing requirements if:

- The grower has less than one acre of Christmas trees; or
- The grower harvests less than 400 trees annually.

Except for the growers exempted above, all Christmas tree growers must submit an application for a Christmas Tree Grower License and the Christmas tree grower license fee by February 1st each year on the WSDA online certification system called PISCES at <https://fortress.wa.gov/agr/pisces/PlantServices/Login/Login.aspx>.

Christmas tree growers in violation of the chapter may be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per violation.

For more information on the WSDA Christmas Tree Program, contact Cindy Cooper by phone (360) 902-2062 or email: ccooper@agr.wa.gov.

New Licensing Sticker:

You can now purchase a sticker which indicates you are a **licensed** Christmas tree grower in the state of Washington.

Stickers are available at cost to growers with a current Christmas Tree Grower license for \$7.80 for a roll of 250.

Contact WSDA Plant Services for more information at (360) 902-1922.

