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Mission

To provide services to the Oregon Christmas tree industry that assist in the production, marketing, and protection of Oregon Christmas trees.

Program History and Goals

The Oregon Christmas Tree Inspection Program was founded in 1985 in response to the need for a certification program to facilitate the shipping of trees to other states and foreign countries. All growers with more than one acre of Christmas Trees are required to be licensed. Currently there are over 800 licensed Christmas tree growers in Oregon, raising over 41,000 acres of trees. Oregon Christmas trees are shipped to all 50 states and a number of foreign countries.

The Christmas Tree Inspection Program has 5 primary goals:

1. Provide, when necessary, inspection and certification of Christmas trees grown and shipped from Oregon.
2. Make information available to all licensed Christmas tree growers relative to import requirements of other states and countries.
3. Help prevent the spread of destructive pests and diseases in Oregon Christmas tree plantations.
4. Provide information relative to plant pest and disease control to the Christmas tree industry.
5. Help prevent the introduction of new pests and diseases into Oregon Christmas tree plantations.

Staff

The inspection staff consists of 13 horticulturists and a program supervisor. Each horticulturist is a licensed pesticide consultant and conducts inspections and certification of Christmas trees for licensed growers in Oregon.

Services Provided

by the Christmas Tree Inspection Program

Inspections

Department horticulturists are authorized to inspect licensed growers' operations to determine the presence of and recommend controls for pest, disease, and noxious weed conditions. Inspections are conducted for the presence of new and common plant pests, diseases and noxious weeds which affect the quality of Christmas trees and the ability to sell trees in domestic and foreign markets. In addition, horticulturists assist in identifying and providing information for the control of pest, disease, weed, and cultural problems.

Certification

The department issues a shipping permit number to licensed Christmas tree growers. A shipping permit with the licensee's number shall accompany all shipments and deliveries of Christmas trees. Christmas trees, cut branches, or other plant parts being shipped to most foreign and certain domestic destinations require special inspection or certification. Contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Plant Division, at 503/986-4644, for up to date information.

Additional services

The department maintains contact with other states and countries to facilitate the movement of trees to intended markets. Plant pest and disease diagnostic services are provided by department entomology and plant pathology staff.

Fee Structure

Christmas Tree Licenses

The annual license fee, due each July 1, consists of a basic charge and an acreage assessment.

In accordance with ORS 571.530 (B), the annual license fee schedule is established by the department after consultation with the State Christmas Tree Advisory Committee and after a public hearing, and may not exceed \$75 for the basic charge and \$3 per acre for the acreage assessment. The total license fee shall not exceed \$5,000.

The fee schedule for licenses for July 1, 1999, is as follows:

<u>Acres of Trees Basic Charge <i>plus</i> Acreage Assessment = Total Fee</u>		
1 to 40	\$60 <i>plus</i>	\$ 3.00 per acre
41 to 100	\$60 <i>plus</i> *	\$ 120 <i>plus</i> \$2.50 per acre over 40 acres
101 to 200	\$60 <i>plus</i> **	\$ 270 <i>plus</i> \$2.00 per acre over 100 acres
Over 200	\$60 <i>plus</i> ***	\$ 470 <i>plus</i> \$1.50 per acre over 200 acres

* The \$120 assessment is derived by multiplying 40 acres by \$3.

** The \$270 assessment is derived by multiplying 40 acres by \$3, *plus* 60 acres by \$2.50.

*** The \$470 assessment is derived by multiplying 40 acres by \$3, *plus* 60 acres by \$2.50, *plus* 100 acres by \$2.

Oregon Christmas Tree Program

The minimum annual license fee is \$63 (for one acre) and the maximum fee is \$5,000.

To calculate the annual license fee for Christmas trees, add the basic charge of \$60 *plus* \$3 per acre for the first 40 acres, then \$2.50 per acre for the next 60 acres, then \$2 per acre for the next 100 acres, then \$1.50 per acre for any acreage over 200 acres.

Example 1:

The total annual license fee for 25 acres is \$60 (basic charge) *plus* an acreage assessment of \$75 ($\3×25 acres) for a total of \$135.

Example 2:

The total annual license fee for 60 acres is \$60 (basic charge) *plus* an acreage assessment of \$170 ($\3×40 acres *plus* $\$2.50 \times 20$ acres) for a total of \$230.

Example 3:

The total annual license fee for 150 acres is \$60 (basic charge) *plus* an acreage assessment of \$370 ($\3×40 acres *plus* $\$2.50 \times 60$ acres *plus* $\$2 \times 50$ acres) for a total of \$430.

Example 4:

The total annual license fee for 1,000 acres is \$60 (basic charge) *plus* an acreage assessment of \$1,670 ($\3×40 acres *plus* $\$2.50 \times 60$ acres *plus* $\$2 \times 100$ acres *plus* $\$1.50 \times 800$ acres) for a total of \$1,730.

Excerpts from Oregon Christmas Tree Law

ORS 571.505 to 571.580

571.505 Definitions

“**Christmas tree**” means a cut evergreen tree of a marketable species.

“**Grower**” means any person who grows Christmas trees for sale.

“**Dealer**” means a person who purchases Christmas trees for resale.

“**Sell or Sale**” means to offer or hold for the purpose of sale, or to solicit orders for sale or to deliver, distribute, exchange, furnish or supply.

571.510 Policy

A Christmas tree service shall be maintained within the State Department of Agriculture for the purpose of carrying out and enforcing the provisions of ORS 571.505 to 571.580.

571.520 Exemptions from licensing requirements

ORS 571.525 and 571.530 do not apply to:

- (1) Any grower owning one acre or less of Christmas trees and whose business consists only of retail sales to the ultimate consumer.
- (2) Any dealer.

571.525 License required to operate as grower

No person shall operate as a grower without first obtaining a license therefor from the State Department of Agriculture.

571.530 License application; fee

The annual license fee schedule shall be established by the State Department of Agriculture after consultation with the State Christmas Tree Advisory Committee and after a public hearing, not to exceed \$75 for the basic charge and \$3 per acre for the acreage assessment.

571.540 Form of License

All licenses issued under ORS 571.505 to 571.580 shall expire on June 30 next following the date of issue.

571.545 License not transferable; notice of change of business organization

A license is personal to the applicant and may not be transferred.

The license issued to a grower applies to the particular premises named in the license.

571.575 Knowingly offering to sell infected or infested Christmas tree stock

No person shall knowingly offer to sell Christmas tree stock that is infected or infested.

“Infected” means any appearance of a disease symptom or causal agent that may, in the opinion of the State Department of Agriculture, be a menace to other Christmas tree stock or any products or properties.

“Infested” means when the mature or immature form of any plant pest, including noxious weeds as defined by the department, is found in such numbers as, in the opinion of the department, to be a menace to other Christmas tree stock or any products or properties.

Related Resources

Oregon Department of Agriculture

Plant Division 503/986-4644

To contact area horticulturist, general information on the program.

Pesticides Division 503/986-4635

Information on applicator and consultant licensing requirements, pesticide labeling laws, and to report pesticide misuse.

Natural Resources Division ... 503/986-4700

Water runoff issues.

Agricultural Development and Marketing Division 503/872-6600

Information on marketing.

Oregon Department of Water Resources

Information 503/378-3739

Information on wells, water rights, and irrigation laws.

Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association

..... 503/364-2942

Contact local city, county, or regional governments to check for additional licensing requirements or land use restrictions.