

CHRISTMAS TREE INFORMATION ON CUTTING FREE CHRISTMAS TREES FOR PERSONAL USE

Please read this information carefully before you plan to cut a Christmas tree.

1. Who may apply for a Christmas tree?

Any person, who is 19 years or older and resides in British Columbia, is allowed to cut a Christmas tree free of charge from Crown lands after getting permission from a Forest Officer. This requirement does not pertain to persons having suitable Christmas trees on their private land(s).

2. Where can I apply?

Apply at any local forest district office, field office, or download the permit from the district web site in your area. http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/DOS/dist_docs/CTP_preamble.htm. Carry your letter of authorization with you as you may be asked to produce it.

3. Where do I cut a tree?

In most areas you can only cut a tree from areas designated for this purpose. These areas may be: the Crown land portion of the following:

- a) Hydro right-of-way (Crown land portion only) except areas where Christmas trees are being grown commercially.
- b) Logging roads (within three metres-ten feet-of the edge of the road).
- c) Open range lands.

Cut your tree from dry, rocky sites or slopes within the permitted areas. They produce better Christmas trees.

4. Are there areas where I must not cut Christmas trees?

Yes, you cannot cut a Christmas tree from:

- a) Private lands
- b) Plantations – Cut Blocks
- c) Research areas
- d) Parks
- e) Watersheds
- f) Juvenile-spaced areas
- g) Any other areas alienated or reserved for a special use.

5. How many trees can I cut?

You are allowed to cut the number of trees specified on the permit, at the time you pick it up, up to a maximum of **3 trees per family**. Cutting Christmas trees free of charge is strictly for personal use. You are not allowed to sell them. Failure to comply is an unauthorized harvest on Crown land under *Section 52 of FRPA*. Unauthorized cutting may be further subject to prosecution under the *Criminal Code of Canada*.

6. What species of tree can I cut?

This depends on your location. Usually Douglas fir on dry sites produce the best trees. However, lodgepole pine, spruce, balsam and other minor species may be designated for cutting where Douglas fir is not available.

7. What should I do before cutting a tree?

- a) Make sure you have chosen the best tree and the size you want.
- b) Try to leave the bottom one or two branches on the stump of the tree, which may grow into another Christmas tree for future use.
- c) Do not cut a big tree only to use the top portion. This may be a waste of a future tree and the portion left on the area will create a fire hazard.

8. What should I do after cutting a tree?

Leave the area as clean as possible.

Do not leave lower boles and branches of the cut tree alongside roads or in the ditches. Lop them close to the ground and scatter. Do not transport your tree outside the province.

An orderly cutting of Christmas trees, without unnecessary waste, will help you to enjoy the holiday season and will ensure growing crops of timber for future generations.

Thank you for your co-operation.