Agricultural Burning Permit: Application for Pile Burns

Do You Need an Agricultural Burn Permit?

If you are a commercial farmer and you are piling up agricultural vegetation to burn on land that is going to stay in agriculture, you must get a Pile Burn permit from Ecology. You may also use this application if you have a documented pest emergency.

If you are a commercial farmer, you do **not** need a permit from Ecology for the following types of agricultural burning: annual orchard prunings, organic debris along fence lines, irrigation and drainage ditches, or organic debris blown by the wind. However, even if you don't need a permit, you must still **notify local fire authorities before you burn and follow all local fire safety regulations**. You may not burn during an air pollution episode or any stage of impaired air quality (burn ban). To check for burn bans call 1-800-406-5322 before you burn or sign up for email at www.ecy.wa.gov.

What is a Commercial Agricultural Operation?

The agricultural burning regulation (WAC 173-430) defines a commercial agricultural operation as a farmer who is practicing agriculture for commercial purposes and has filed an IRS schedule F form or its corporate equivalent.

Instructions:

1. Fill out the application completely.
2. Attach a map of the acreage you are proposing to burn (see details in Section 3).
3. Attach additional documentation as needed to include:

   a. report from third party agronomic or pest expert that helps to demonstrate the need to burn; and

   b. compliance with soil loss standards.
4. Calculate tonnage and the fee in the space provided. (**Minimum fee is $80.00)*
5. Sign and date the application.
6. Mail the application and check for the permit fee to:

   Washington State Department of Ecology
   Cashiering Unit
   PO Box 47611
   Olympia, WA 98504-7611 **OR** to your delegated permitting authority

Make check payable to: Agricultural Burning Account (or your local permitting office).

Application must be filled out completely and correctly, and submitted with the entire permit fee, before Ecology or a delegated authority will issue a permit.

Permit Fee (minimum fee is $80.00 for up to 80 tons)

Orchards: Acres _____ X_____ age of trees =_____ X .7 (tons/year) = _____ Total Tons

Vineyard: (avg weight of one vine (lbs) X number of vines per acre X total acreage)/2000lbs = _____ _____ Total Tons

If total tons = less than 80 tons your permit fee is $80.00.

If total tons = more than 80 tons multiply tons x $1.00/ton and this is your fee.

Estimating pile tonnage

Examples: 10 acres X 25 year old trees=250 X .7(tons/year) =**175** total tons x $1.00 = **$175.00 fee**

5 acres X 10 year old trees = 50 X .7(tons/year) = **35** total tons = **$80.00 Minimum fee**

Alternative methods to estimate pile tonnage are also available based on pile size. Call your permitting authority if you have questions; the phone numbers are available on **page 5** of this application.

Section 1 – Applicant and Operator Information

Who is the applicant?

This means any person engaged in the business of growing or producing for sale any agricultural product upon their own lands or upon the land in which they have a present right of possession, any agricultural product. Farmer does not mean persons growing or producing such products primarily for their own consumption.

Applicant: Please print clearly

First Name:_____ Last Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Alternate Phone:_____ Email:_____

Contractor (if different than Applicant)

First Name:_____ Last Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Alternate Phone:_____ Email:_____

Section 2 – Residue Information

Common name (how do you refer to this section of orchard/farm?) _____

Variety/Type of trees/residue being removed: Dwarf variety? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Which Best Management Practice (BMP) are you using? (See Orchard Crops BMP Guidance Manual)

☐ Orchard Renewal ☐ Insect Control ☐ Disease Control

☐ Orchard Removal (with signed Agronomic Professional Verification Document) ☐ Section 5 – Research

☐ Orchard Transition: Must keep land in agriculture, submit plan and implement within three years. If your circumstances do not match a BMP, contact your permitting authority or Ecology.

Have the trees/residue already been torn out? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, date torn out: _____

When will you be ready to burn? _____

By when do you need to be done burning? _____

How do you plan to construct the burn piles?

☐ Push trees into piles ☐ Pick up trees and place on piles

Approximately what size will the piles be? ☐ 10'high x 20'wide ☐ 15'h x 30'w ☐ 25'h x 40'w

Section 3 – Burn Pile Location

Provide the ¼ ¼, Section, Township and Range for the property where the vegetation is being removed and burned. **If the property is located in more than one Township, Range, Section, list each separately:**

Township	Range	Section	¼ Section

Provide driving directions **from nearest town to the burn location**, include the street address if applicable:

☐ Attach a map with the location where trees or other vegetation has been removed and locations of burn piles. The map must contain road names and identifying features.

Are any of these locations inside an urban growth area (UGA)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Section 4 – Vegetation Management

Why is the vegetation being removed? _____

What are your plans for this acreage? _____

Describe the alternatives you have researched, and why these are not effective (e.g. chipping, firewood, etc)

How do the costs of alternatives compare to the cost of burning? (provide cost estimates or comparisons)?

How do you plan to protect the torn-out acreage from water and wind erosion?_____

Has the orchard or field been inspected by a third party agronomic or pest expert? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what were the results of the inspection and what is your plan to manage the situation? (attach results)

Section 5 –Certification and Signature

Permit applicants are required to follow and obey all applicable provisions of **Chapter 70A.15 RCW** and Chapter 173-430 WAC, Agricultural Burning.

I certify that:

- If granted a permit, I agree to comply with the conditions contained in the permit;
- The information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge;
- The farm described in this application is an agricultural operation as defined in Chapter 173-430 WAC;
- If I am demonstrating necessity to burn by use of a Best Management Practice, I have read and understand, and will follow the Best Management Practices specific to this type of burning;
- I believe the proposed burning is reasonably necessary, and that no practical alternative exists, and;
- I grant the Department of Ecology, or its representative, access to all acreage listed on any agricultural burning permit application I submit or on any permit I am issued, including private roads or access ways under my control needed to access the listed acreage for the purpose of investigating conditions specific to the agricultural burning permit or application.
- I understand Ecology, to the extent reasonable and consistent with carrying out the duties of the agricultural burning permitting program, will notify me and give me the option to accompany Ecology, or their duly authorized representatives, when accessing the permitted property.

Signature of Responsible Party _____ Date _____

Mail the application, map, any supporting documentation and check for the permit fee to:

Agricultural Burning Account
Washington State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47611
Olympia, WA 98504-7611 **OR** to your County Permitting Authority

What Happens Next?

Ecology will evaluate your application and determine if you have demonstrated that burning is necessary to carry out your enterprise and that no practical alternatives exist. Ecology will act on a complete application within seven days and will either send you a permit or a written explanation as to why the application was denied. If we have questions we may contact you by telephone. Permits contain specific instructions including a requirement that burning be conducted on an Ecology determined burn day. It is important to read and understand all of the permit conditions prior to lighting a fire. If you have any questions, please feel free to call your permitting authority. Your permit, if issued, will be valid until the expiration date noted on the permit.

Refund Policy

Refunds may be available if no burning takes place, or partial burning takes place. Contact your permitting authority or see the "permit conditions" section of your permit for more information.

Have Questions or Need Help?

Call Ecology, your local air authority, or your delegated permitting authority:

- In Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan Counties: call Ecology's Central Region 509-575-2490
- In Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties, call Ecology's Eastern Region 509-329-3400
- In Benton, Spokane, Yakima, and Western Washington counties Contact your local clean air agency

For more information: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/agricultural_homepage.htm

ADA Accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, email AQoutreach@ecy.wa.gov, call 360-407-6800, or dial 711 to call through the Washington Telecommunications Relay for services like text telephone (TTY). Visit Ecology.wa.gov/ADA for more accessibility information.

How to Estimate Tons Per Acre or Tons Per Pile of Orchard Tear-Out Debris

Use these instructions when applying for Ecology's Pile Burn Permit.

Method	When to use	Variables	Calculation	Example
Method 1: Estimate tons of wood per acre you propose to burn* relies on the relatively constant growth rate of .7 tons per year (in terms of wood volume) of orchard trees.	Use when: you know the age of the trees to be torn out, and you are satisfied that the tonnage calculated adequately describes the amount to be burned.	Number of acres of orchard torn out = **N** Age of trees torn out = **A** Tons to be burned = ***T***	***T*** = **N** x **A** x 0.7	For a 20- acre orchard tear-out with 12-year-old trees: ***T*** = 20 acres x 12years x 0.7tons/acre/year = 168 tons • Fee for 168 tons = 80 ton base fee of $80 + 88 tons @ 1.00/ton = $88. = $168 total
Method 2: Find the tonnage of a pile of natural vegetation** Determines the volume of your burn pile in order to figure out tonnage. Uses the cubic feet (ft^3) of the pile (or V for volume) multiplied by the weight (density) of the wood in the pile (55 lbs/ft^3 for green apple wood) multiplied by the packing ratio (conservatively 15%, because 85% of the pile is air in most stacked piles).	Use when: • you don't know the age of the trees to be burnt, or you have removed some of the wood for chipping or firewood.	Cubic feet of the pile = V (volume) Weight/density of the wood in the pile = 55 lbs. per cubic ft. for green apple wood (most other fruit woods are of similar density) Packing ratio = 15% (in other words, 85% of the pile volume is made up of air) Height of the pile = h Diameter of the pile = d π = 3.14	Step 1: For roughly circular piles, the calculation is: V=(π X x h x d x d)/8 Step 2: After calculating volume, divide the volume by 242 to take into account the density of the natural vegetation in the pile and the packing ratio.	For a roughly circular pile that is 20 feet tall (h) and 40 feet across (d): • V = (3.14 x 20 x 40 x 40) / 8 which equals 12,560 cubic feet of material • 12,560 ÷ 242 = 51.9 tons of material • Fee for 51.9 tons = less than 80 tons = base charge: $80 (See Ecology Pile Burn Permit Application for more fee information)

* See Ecology Publication 10-02-047, *Orchard Chipping Grant Report*

**Formulas taken from USDA Forest Service Publication, *Guidelines for Estimating Volume, Biomass, and Smoke Production for Piled Slash.* Publication no. 10-02-045