



# Agricultural Burning Permit: Application for Pile Burns

For Office Use Only  
Permit # \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 the Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA). You may also use this application if you have a documented pest emergency.

If you are a commercial farmer, you do **not** need a fee permit from SWCAA 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, you still need to provide verification to SWCAA even if you don't need a fee permit. If you qualify you will be given a approval letter that outlines your responsibilities and limitations. Such as 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 360-574-3058 or 1-800-633-0709 before you burn or check <http://www.swcleanair.org/burninginfo.asp>.

## Instructions

- Fill out the application completely.
- Attach a map of the acreage you are proposing to burn (see details in Section 3).
- Attach additional documentation as needed to include:
  - report from third party agronomic or pest expert that helps to demonstrate the need to burn; and
  - compliance with soil loss standards.
- Calculate tonnage and the fee in the space provided. (*\*Minimum fee is \$80.00*)
- Sign and date the application.
- Mail or hand deliver the application and check for the permit fee to:
 

**Southwest Clean Air Agency**  
5101 NE 82nd Ave., Ste. 102  
Vancouver, WA 98662
- Make check payable to: SWCAA
- Application must be filled out completely and correctly, and submitted with the entire permit fee, before SWCAA 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

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:  $\frac{10 \text{ acres}}{5 \text{ acres}} \times \frac{25 \text{ year old trees}}{10 \text{ year old trees}} = \frac{250}{50} \times .7(\text{tons/year}) = \frac{175 \text{ total tons}}{35 \text{ total tons}} \times \$1.00 = \mathbf{\$175.00 \text{ fee}}$   
 $\mathbf{\$80.00 \text{ Minimum fee}}$

Alternative methods to estimate pile tonnage are also available based on pile size. If you would prefer to use one of these methods to calculate tonnage, please refer to Ecology Publication Number 10-02-045 included in this application as page 5, and *Guidelines for Estimating Volume, Biomass, and Smoke Production for Piled Slash*, available at [http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/pnw\\_gtr364/](http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/pnw_gtr364/), or call SWCAA 360-574-3058 or 1-800-633-0709.

## Section 1 – Applicant and Operator Information

Who is the farmer/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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Do you lease  or own  the land?  
must have permission from owner to burn

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email : \_\_\_\_\_

Who is responsible for conducting the burn?

Same as farmer  or Contractor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Section 2 – Residue Information

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

2.2 Variety/Type of trees/residue being removed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dwarf variety? Yes  No

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

Section 1 – Orchard Renewal  Section 2 – Insect Control  Section 3 – Disease Control

Section 4 – Orchard Removal (only with signed Agronomic Professional Verification Document)

Section 5 – Research  Section 6 – Orchard Transition: Must keep land in agriculture, submit plan & implement within 3 years.

If your circumstances do not match a BMP, contact SWCAA.

2.4 Have the trees/residue already been torn out? Yes  No  If yes, date torn out: \_\_\_\_\_

2.5 When will you be ready to burn? \_\_\_\_\_

2.6 By when do you need to be done burning? \_\_\_\_\_

2.7 How do you plan to construct the burn piles? Push trees into piles  Pick up trees and place on piles

2.8 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**

3.1 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 Section, Township, Range, list each separately:**

\_\_\_\_\_ ¼ \_\_\_\_\_ ¼ of Section \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ¼ \_\_\_\_\_ ¼ of Section \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ¼ \_\_\_\_\_ ¼ of Section \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_

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

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3.3  Attach a map with the location where trees or other vegetation has been removed and locations of burn piles. Include Section lines, and Section, Township, and Range numbers.

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

3.5 Fire Department/District (name and #) \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 4 – Vegetation Management**

4.1 Why is the vegetation being removed? \_\_\_\_\_

4.2 What are your plans for this acreage? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

4.6 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 the Washington Clean Air Act, Chapter 70.94 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 SWCAA, 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 SWCAA, 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 SWCAA, or their duly authorized representatives, when accessing the permitted property.

Signature of Responsible Party \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or hand deliver the application and check for the permit fee to:

**Southwest Clean Air Agency  
5101 NE 82nd Ave., Ste. 102  
Vancouver, WA 98662**

### What Happens Next?

SWCAA 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. SWCAA 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 SWCAA 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 or partial burning takes place. Contact SWCAA or see the “permit conditions” section of your permit for more information.

### Have Questions or Need Help?

Call SWCAA 360-574-3058

For more information go to <http://www.swcleanair.org/agburn.html>



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

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

Method	When to use	Variables	Calculation	Example
<p><b>Method 1: Estimate tons of wood per acre you propose to burn*</b></p> <p>Relies on the relatively constant growth rate of .7 tons per year (in terms of wood volume) of orchard trees.</p>	<p>Use when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you know the age of the trees to be torn out, and</li> <li>• you are satisfied that the tonnage calculated adequately describes the amount to be burned.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of acres of orchard torn out = <b>N</b></li> <li>• Age of trees torn out = <b>A</b></li> <li>• Tons to be burned = <b>T</b></li> </ul>	<p><math>T = N \times A \times 0.7</math></p>	<p>For a 20- acre orchard tear-out with 12-year-old trees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>T = 20 \text{ acres} \times 12 \text{ years} \times 0.7 \text{ tons/acre/year} = 168 \text{ tons}</math></li> <li>• Fee for 168 tons = 80 ton base fee of \$80 + 88 tons @ 1.00/ton = \$88. = \$168 total</li> </ul>
<p><b>Method 2: Find the tonnage of a pile of natural vegetation**</b></p> <p>Determines the volume of your burn pile in order to figure out tonnage. Uses the cubic feet (ft<sup>3</sup>) of the pile (or V for volume) multiplied by the weight (density) of the wood in the pile (55 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup> for green apple wood) multiplied by the packing ratio (conservatively 15%, because 85% of the pile is air in most stacked piles).</p>	<p>Use when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you don't know the age of the trees to be burnt, or</li> <li>• you have removed some of the wood for chipping or firewood.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cubic feet of the pile = V (volume)</li> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• Packing ratio = 15% (in other words, 85% of the pile volume is made up of air)</li> <li>• Height of the pile = h</li> <li>• Diameter of the pile = d</li> <li>• <math>\pi \approx 3.14</math></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Step 1: For roughly circular piles, the calculation is: <math>V = \frac{\pi \times h \times d^2}{8}</math></li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p>For a roughly circular pile that is 20 feet tall (h) and 40 feet across (d):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>V = (3.14 \times 20 \times 40 \times 40) / 8</math> which equals 12,560 cubic feet of material</li> <li>• <math>12,560 \div 242 = 51.9 \text{ tons of material}</math></li> <li>• Fee for 51.9 tons = less than 80 tons = base charge: \$80 (See SWCAA Pile Burn Permit Application for more fee information)</li> </ul>

\* 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*