

Chipping Program General Information

The Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) is again offering a **free** chipping program for orchardists who want to chip wood waste (stumps and branches) from an orchard removal. If you live within the City of Kelowna, Districts of Lake Country, Peachland, West Kelowna or the Regional District of Central Okanagan Electoral Areas and have wood waste from an orchard removal for the purpose of replanting or other agricultural use, you may apply for this program.

In the past, a common method of disposal has been burning. This produces smoky haze, fine particles and other chemicals that can seriously harm human health. Chipping wood waste helps keep our air clean and provides growers with valuable wood chips.

After you have registered with the program, a grinder will be brought to your orchard to chip stumps and large branches into one to two inch diameter sized chips. After chipping, the piles will be measured by a surveyor, after which, the chips can be used as mulch.

A mulch of wood chips applied along the tree row helps keep the tree root zones cool, retains moisture in the soil and suppresses weeds. Wood chip mulch also has a positive effect on soil properties and leads to improved tree health and vigor, as well as increased yields.

**Register to have your
wood chipped FREE!**

Regional Air Quality Program

c/o City of Kelowna Regional Services
1435 Water Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J4

Ph. 250 469-8408

airquality@kelowna.ca | kelowna.ca/airquality



Agricultural Wood Waste Chipping Program

INFORMATION PACKAGE



**REMOVING
ORCHARDS?
CALL BEFORE
YOU PULL!**

Call Before You Pull

Registration is accepted year round, and chipping generally occurs from March through June and September through December. Delays may occur due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Orchards being removed for the purpose of residential or commercial development will not be accepted into the program. Applicants with small amounts of wood waste may not be accommodated through this program due to the high cost of mobilizing the chipping machine.

This project is coordinated by the Regional District of the Central Okanagan's Air Quality Program.

To register, contact the Regional Air Quality Program Coordinator at:
airquality@kelowna.ca

Phone: 250 469-8408

Alternatives to Outdoor Burning

Burning produces toxic chemicals and particles that harm human health.

- Contact the Air Quality Program Coordinator for information on the Chipping Program and other burning alternatives at 250-469-8408
- Small amounts of prunings will be picked up through the curbside yard waste program or up to 250 kg can be dropped off for free at the Glenmore Landfill, loads weighing more than 250 kg will be charged \$25 per tonne
- Rent a portable chipper for branches and wood waste up to 6" or 12" in diameter

If you have to burn, you must follow all local and regional bylaws.

Open Burning Best Practices

- Outdoor burning requires a special permit from your local fire department
- Only those residents that have properties greater than one hectare (2.5 acres) are eligible to apply for an outdoor burning permit within the Central Okanagan
- Outdoor burning is only permitted between October and April, and only when air quality and venting conditions are rated "good"
- You must call the Regional Open Burning Information line (toll free) at 1-855-262-2876 to check the Venting Index and Air Quality on the day you plan to burn. Listen to the message to confirm that burning is permitted on that day
- Only permitted burning materials are allowed to be burned, including untreated wood waste that has been allowed to dry for at least two years (or to equivalent dryness)

Never burn garbage, plastics, treated wood, or any other prohibited materials.



How to Prepare for Wood Chipping

Important Information

- Pile the wood waste approximately 50 meters away from any public roads, residential houses, structures or vehicles, and approximately 150 meters from any public gathering places, such as parks.
 - Raw wood waste must be in an area where you want the wood chips piled. The program administrator and the chipping contractor are not responsible for moving the wood chip piles after the chipping process is complete.
 - If your wood waste is slated to be chipped when fruit is ripening on adjacent trees, ensure the wood waste is piled at least 30 meters away so flying debris from the chipping process does not damage the fruit.
 - Pile wood waste in an area where it can be left for up to three months. Delays in the chipping program may occur because of weather or other unforeseen circumstances. If you have been accepted into the program, the wood waste will be chipped within a reasonable amount of time. The chipping contractor is not responsible for moving any wood waste that has been piled for this program.
 - Clearly mark irrigation lines or anything underground that you don't want equipment to drive on.
 - After wood waste has been chipped, do not handle the wood chip pile(s) until after the program administrator surveys them to determine volumes. This is how we determine how much to pay the chipping contractor. Surveying usually occurs within one or two days of chipping. a program employee will contact you as soon as the surveying is complete and then you can use the chips as you wish.
 - You are responsible for storage and use of the resulting wood chips. Please be aware that large wood chip piles are flammable. Please spread out large piles of wood chips immediately after they have been surveyed by the a program administrator .
- The program administrator is not responsible for any problems associated with the wood chips left on your property.
- Program administrators and chipping contractors have the right to refuse any chipping job deemed unsafe.



Step 1
Contact the program coordinator before pulling!
Call 250 469-8408 and register for the free chipping program.



Step 2
Pull out unwanted orchard trees.
Tree roots must be free of rocks and dirt.
Failure to remove rocks and dirt will result in additional fees or refusal of chipping.



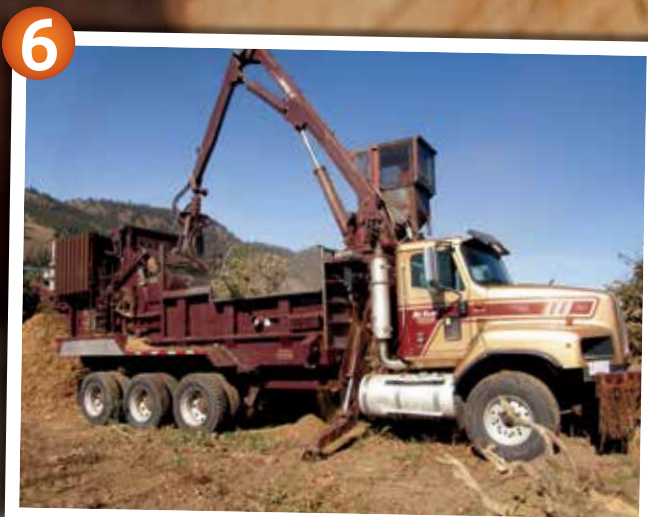
Step 3
Cut trees approximately two or three feet above the root ball.
Large trees should be cut in half and de-limbed.
Peel tree "like a banana".
The Red arrows in the above image show where to properly de-limb your trees.



Step 4
Have an excavator or tractor create windrows of pulled Trees.



Step 5
Ensure the excavator makes one pile for every acre of trees pulled.



Step 6
Pile wood waste on level ground that is easily accessible for large equipment.
Piles that are inaccessible to the chipper and excavator will not be chipped.



Step 7
Do not move or use wood chips until the program administrator surveys the pile!

PLEASE CALL
THE PROGRAM
COORDINATOR
BEFORE YOU PULL!
250 469-8408