

# 2005 Agricultural Wood Waste Chipping Program

## APPLICATION PACKAGE

**Do you have wood waste left over  
from an orchard removal?**



**Apply to have it chipped for free!**

# **Chipping Program – General Information**

The Central Okanagan Regional District is offering a free program in 2005 for Central Okanagan orchardists who want to chip wood waste material that has come from an orchard removal. This type of debris typically includes stumps and branches.

Due to a decline in the tree fruit industry, hundreds of acres of orchard trees are being pulled out within the Central Okanagan each year. The most common method of orchard debris disposal has been burning it in large outdoor fires, similar to forest slash burns. This often creates a smokey haze in the region. To help keep our air clean, please consider applying for this program.

This project is being coordinated by the RDCO's Air Quality Program with funding support from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and Environment Canada. The British Columbia Fruit Growers Association, the BC Fruit Packers Cooperative, the Okanagan North Growers Co-op and the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre are also offering in-kind assistance

## **How will the debris be chipped?**

A portable tub grinder will be towed to participating orchards where it will be set up to chip stumps and large branches into 1 to 2 inch diameter sized chips. After chipping, the ground wood residue will be left on the property for the farmer to use as he or she wishes. It is recommended that the chips be spread around trees to increase the moisture retention of the soil and to control weeds.

## **Benefits of wood chips as a mulch**

A mulch of wood chips or similar materials, applied along the tree row, can help keep the trees' root zones cool and moist. Although wood chip mulch will not entirely control weeds, it will suppress them. Growers whose trees are mulched can attend to the few weeds within the rows on a more flexible schedule than growers who maintain a herbicide strip in the rows. Wood chip mulch also has a positive effect on soil properties and leads to improved tree health and vigour, as well as increased yields (Source: University of Minnesota).

## **Who may apply?**

If you live within the City of Kelowna or Central Okanagan Regional District and have wood waste derived from an orchard removal for the purpose of replanting or other agricultural use, you may apply for this program. Orchards being removed for the purpose of residential or commercial development will not be accepted into the program, since outdoor burning of that material is not allowed.

Since this program budget is limited, priority will be given to applicants with substantial amounts of wood waste. Applicants with less than 150 trees to be chipped may not be accommodated through this program. Please contact Corey Davis with the City of Kelowna for a site visit to determine if the volume of your wood waste is eligible for the program.

## **When will chipping occur?**

There will be two time periods when chipping will occur in 2005. Wood waste chipping will occur between the months of February and May or November and December, 2005. If you are approved for this program, wood waste must be piled and ready for chipping by March 20<sup>th</sup> 2005 for the Spring chipping period and November 7, 2005 for the Fall chipping period.

# What do I have to do to qualify for this program?

## Please follow these rules when preparing your wood waste for chipping:

- √ Please cut your trees in half. You only need to make one cut approximately 2 or 3 feet above the root ball. Salvage your trees for firewood if you want.
- √ Make the least amount of wood piles possible. There should be one pile of wood waste for every 3 to 4 acres of trees removed. This reduces the amount of moving that the chipper has to make on your property.
- √ Pile the wood waste on level ground, since the chipper needs this type of terrain to work on.
- √ Pile the wood waste in an area that has easy access by a large truck, trailer and excavator. Piles that are inaccessible to the chipper and excavator will not be chipped (i.e. don't place the pile in a location that a truck and trailer would have difficulty getting to, such as on top of a hill without roadway access).
- √ Pile the wood waste approximately 50 meters from any public road.
- √ Pile the wood waste approximately 50 meters from any residential house, structure or vehicles and approximately 150 meters from any public gathering place, such as a park.
- √ Pile the raw wood waste in an area where you want the wood chips piled, since the chipper emits the resulting wood chips in the immediate area of the raw wood waste pile. The City or our chipping contractor is 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 that flying debris from the chipping process does not damage the fruit.
- √ Pile the wood waste in an area that is not time sensitive to work projects (Pile the wood waste in an area where it can be left for up to six months). Delays in the chipping program may occur because of mechanical breakdowns 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 City of Kelowna will not be responsible for moving any wood waste that has been piled for this program.
- √ There will be two approximate time periods when chipping will occur in 2005. Wood waste chipping will occur between the months of February and May or November and December, 2005. If you are approved for this program, wood waste must be piled and ready for chipping by March 20<sup>th</sup> 2005 for the Spring chipping period and November 7, 2005 for the Fall chipping period.
- √ Clearly mark irrigation lines or anything underground that you don't want the chipping company to drive on.
- √ The City of Kelowna or its Chipping contractors have the right to refuse any chipping job that is deemed unsafe.

## **Please follow these rules after your wood waste has been chipped:**

- √ After your wood waste has been chipped please do not handle the wood chip pile (s) until after the City of Kelowna surveys them to determine volumes (this is how we determine how much the chipping contractor gets paid). Surveying usually occurs within one or two days of chipping. A City employee will contact you as soon as the surveying is complete. After the wood chip piles have been surveyed you can use the chips as you wish.
- √ You are responsible for the storage and use of the resulting wood chips. Please be aware that large wood chip piles are susceptible to spontaneous combustion and may catch fire in the warmer months of the year. Please knock large piles of wood chips down and spread out immediately after being surveyed by the City to prevent spontaneous combustion. The City is not responsible for any problems associated with the wood chips left on your property.

## **For more information**

For more information please contact Corey Davis at Kelowna City Hall at (250) 469-8984.

## **All Applicants:**

After we have received your application form we will contact you within a week to make sure that you understand the conditions of the program and to make arrangements for a site visit to your property.



# AGRICULTURAL WOOD WASTE CHIPPING PROJECT APPLICATION FORM

Please fill out this application form and fax it to 862-3338 or drop it off at Kelowna City Hall or mail it to:

Corey Davis  
Environment Division  
City Hall  
1435 Water Street  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J4

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (Work): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of orchard wood waste (if different from address above): \_\_\_\_\_

## Please answer the following questions:

How many acres of trees comprise the wood waste material that you want chipped?  
\_\_\_\_\_

How many trees comprise the wood waste that you want chipped? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of fruit trees comprise the wood waste material that you want chipped?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is the average trunk diameter of the trees you want chipped? \_\_\_\_\_

Are the trees a high density or low density variety? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you authorize City staff to enter onto your property to survey the wood waste before and after the material is chipped? Please circle: YES or NO

Is the wood waste that you want chipped accessible by an excavator and large truck? Please circle: YES or NO

Are you applying to have your wood waste chipped in the spring chipping period or the fall chipping period?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you agree to prepare your wood waste according to the instructions provided in the "rules" section of this application package? Please circle: YES or NO

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_