DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request


The Department of Agriculture will submit the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. Comments are requested regarding: Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received by December 30, 2020. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30–day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Oregon Christmas Tree Survey—Production Year 2020.

OMB Control Number: 0535–0264.

Summary of Collection: The primary objectives of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) are to prepare and issue official State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, disposition and prices, economic statistics, and environmental statistics related to agriculture and to conduct the Census of Agriculture and its follow-on surveys. NASS will conduct a survey of agricultural operations with Christmas Tree acreage in Oregon. Selected farmers will be asked to provide data on (1) Number of trees sold and gross sales both by species and county, (2) Number of new seedlings by species, and (3) Percentage of mortality. General authority for these data collection activities is granted under U.S.C. Title 7, Section 2204. This project is conducted as a cooperative effort with the Oregon Christmas Tree Commission (OCTC), which is chartered under the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Funding for this survey is being provided by the OCTC.

Need and Use of the Information: Oregon leads the nation in Cut Christmas Tree production. The latest low-price cycle ended in 2016 and a third of the producers are no longer growing trees. NASS estimates have brought stability into this important Oregon industry. Some data from the 2019 Census of Horticulture will be used by the industry, but more detail is needed. No other data source is available to enable growers to make decisions about production.

Description of Respondents: A sample of all active agricultural operations with Christmas Trees in Oregon. Sampling will include strata based on acreage.

Number of Respondents: 450.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Once a year.

Total Burden Hours: 111.

Levi S. Harrell,
Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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Comments regarding this information collection received by December 30, 2020 will be considered. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: WIC Nutrition Assessment and Tailoring Study.

OMB Control Number: 0584–NEW.

Summary of Collection: This is a new information collection for the WIC Nutrition Assessment and Tailoring Study that will collect data concerning...
the nutrition assessment process used by local agencies in the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to identify nutrition risks and apply that information to the tailoring of participant benefits. This study will provide the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) with a comprehensive, detailed description of the WIC nutrition risk assessment process and explore the ways in which WIC clinics tailor participant benefits to address the results of the assessment. It will also evaluate the relationship between this process and participant program satisfaction. This study is an FNS priority resulting from policy changes from the publication in 2006 of the “Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment (VENA) in WIC: The First Step in Quality Nutrition Services” and the publication in October 2009 of the interim final rule, “Revisions in the WIC Food Packages,” both of which affected the nutrition assessment or nutrition services process. Section 28 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act as amended by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111–296, Section 305) provides the general statutory authority for this study.

Need and Use of the Information:
This voluntary study will collect data from state and local government respondents in WIC State and Local Agencies, and in WIC clinics; businesses and other for-profit and non-profit institutions in the form of WIC State and Local, or Tribal Government; businesses or other for-profit, non-profit institutions, and individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 1,454.
Frequency of Responses: Reporting: One-time only.
Total Burden Hours: 870.

Ruth Brown,
Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
[Docket No. APHIS–2019–0002]

Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Release of Aphalara itadori for the Biological Control of Japanese, Giant, and Bohemian Knotweeds

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that we have prepared a final environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact relative to the release of Aphalara itadori for the biological control of Japanese, Giant, and Bohemian knotweeds (Fallopia japonica, F. sachalinensis, and F. x bohemica), significant invasive weeds, within the contiguous United States. Based on our finding of no significant impact, we have determined that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Colin D. Stewart, Assistant Director, Pests, Pathogens, and Biocontrol Permits, Permitting and Compliance Coordination, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 651–2327; email: Colin.Stewart@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Invasive knotweeds in North America are a complex of three closely related species in the family Polygonaceae that were introduced from Japan during the late 19th century. They include Fallopia japonica (Japanese knotweed), F. sachalinensis (Giant knotweed), and the hybrid between the two, F. x bohemica (Bohemian knotweed). These large herbaceous perennials have spread throughout much of North America, with the greatest infestations in the Pacific Northwest, the northeast of the United States, and eastern Canada. While capable of growing in diverse habitats, the knotweeds have become especially problematic along the banks and floodplains of rivers and streams, where they crowd out native plants and potentially affect stream nutrients and food webs. While several States have active control programs against knotweeds, the inaccessibility of some of the infestations and the difficulty with which the plants are killed suggest that complete eradication of knotweeds within the United States is unlikely.

The Hokkaido and Kyushu biotypes of the insect, Aphalara itadori, were chosen as potential biological control organisms. The biotypes are expected to reduce the severity of infestations of Japanese, Giant, and Bohemian knotweed, and are known to be highly host specific due to their intimate relationship with their host plants.

On May 28, 2019, we published in the Federal Register (84 FR 24463–24464, Docket No. APHIS–2019–0002) a notice 1 in which we announced the availability, for public review and comment, of an environmental assessment (EA) that examined the potential environmental impacts associated with the release of Aphalara itadori for the biological control of Japanese, Giant, and Bohemian knotweed within the contiguous United States. Comments on the notice were required to be received on or before June 27, 2019; however, we reopened the comment period for an additional 60 days ending August 26, 2019 in a subsequent notice (84 FR 37825–37826, Docket No. APHIS–2019–0002). We received 300 comments by that date. Our responses to the comments are included in the final EA.

In this document, we are advising the public of our finding of no significant impact (FONSI) regarding the release of Aphalara itadori for the biological control of Japanese, Giant, and

1 To view the notice, supporting document, and the comments we received, go to http://www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail?D=APHIS-2019-0002.