

Farm Service Agency – TAP

Tree Assistance Program for Pistachio Tree Losses Due to Bushy Top Syndrome (PBTS)

FACT SHEET
October 2018

Overview

The California State Committee approved PBTS as an eligible disease under TAP. The Acting Deputy Administrator of Farm Programs (DAFP) has subsequently authorized the California State Committee to consider and act on late filed applications for producers affected by PBTS under TAP.

To be eligible, the pistachio orchardist must have suffered a mortality loss due to PBTS that exceeds 15 percent per stand, adjusted for normal mortality.



Eligible Producers

To qualify for TAP eligible orchardists must:

- Have suffered qualifying pistachio tree losses in excess of 15 percent mortality on the stand, adjusted for normal mortality, due to PBTS.
- Planted or be considered to have planted (by purchase prior to the loss of existing stock planted for commercial purposes) trees for commercial purposes, or have a production history, for commercial purposes, of planted or existing trees.
- Replace eligible trees within 12 months from the date the TAP application is approved.

Documentation Required

Proof of Beginning Inventory- You must provide *either*:

1. Dated invoices for purchase of the original trees, listing quantity, purchaser, and delivery dates **OR**
2. An invoice for removal of trees, specifying tree count and acreage of trees removed.

Proof of Disease - You must provide **BOTH**:

1. Producer certification as to acres and number of trees removed due to PBTS **AND**
2. A third-party certification from an industry professional of presence of disease, including the extent (acres) of the orchard and list of symptoms personally witnessed by the certifier.

Proof of Practice Completion: You must provide **BOTH**:

1. A completed CCC-899 Part F **AND**
2. Invoices that include the date, quantity and kind of services performed or type of trees delivered for purchase of replanted trees, labor and site prep.

A FINAL INSPECTION FROM AN AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO APPROVAL



TAP – PISTACHIO TREE LOSSES DUE TO PBTS - OCTOBER 2018

Acreage Limitations

The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees for which an eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower can receive TAP payments cannot exceed 500 acres for losses prior to Jan. 1, 2017 and 1,000 acres for losses occurring on or after January 1, 2017.

Payment Limitation and Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

Losses prior to Jan. 1, 2017 are subject to a \$125,000 payment limitation. For January 1, 2017 and subsequent losses, there is no per person or legal entity payment limitation for TAP.

In applying the average adjusted gross income compliance provisions to TAP, a person or legal entity is ineligible for payment under TAP if the average adjusted gross income (AGI) of the person or legal entity exceeds \$900,000.

Payment Calculator

For pistachio tree replacement, replanting and/or rehabilitation, the payment calculation is the lesser of the following:

- 65 percent of the actual cost of replanting, in excess of 15 percent mortality (adjusted for normal mortality), and, where applicable, 50 percent of the actual cost of rehabilitation, in excess of 15 percent damage or mortality (adjusted for normal tree damage and mortality);

OR

- The maximum eligible amount established for the practice by FSA using the following rates (per tree):
 - Tree replacement.....\$ 8
 - Rehabilitation, including pruning, site preparation and debris removal.....\$15
 - Planting cost.....\$ 2

Applications

The following table provides the final dates to submit a TAP application and supporting documentation:

Date of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application and Supporting Documentation
October 1, 2011 through September 15, 2018	December 15, 2018
Losses after September 15, 2018	within 90 calendar days of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disaster event; or • date when the loss is apparent

For More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply.

For more information about FSA disaster programs, visit <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

