



1998 Tree Assistance Program

Purpose

The 1998 Tree Assistance Program (TAP), administered by the Farm Service Agency, provides payments to eligible tree and vineyard growers who incurred losses due to natural disasters, including losses caused by freeze, excessive rainfall, floods, drought, tornado, and earthquake in Fiscal Year 1998 (October 1, 1997, through September 30, 1998). Payments are authorized only for eligible owners who actually replant or rehabilitate eligible trees and vines.

Application Period

TAP applications for losses suffered in Fiscal Year 1998 must be filed at the owner's county Farm Service Agency office during the sign-up period to be held July 27 through September 1, 1998.

TAP Objectives

TAP is designed to reimburse up to 100 percent of the replanting or rehabilitation costs, adjusted for normal mortality, for eligible owners who experienced eligible tree and vine losses in FY 1998.

Eligible Plants

Under authority provided by Public Law 105-174, 1998, Tree Assistance Program payments shall be made for Fiscal Year 1998 losses of eligible trees and vines planted to produce annual crops that were lost due to natural disasters, including but not limited to flood, drought, hail, excessive moisture, freeze, tornado, hurricane, earthquake, and excessive wind as determined by the Farm Service Agency.

Eligible trees are defined as maple trees for syrup, nursery tree stock, Christmas trees, and papaya trees or orchard trees grown for the commercial production of fruit and nuts.

Eligible vines are defined as grape, kiwi fruit, or passion fruit vines grown for commercial production.

Eligible Owners

To qualify, eligible tree and vine owners must:

- earn less than \$2.5 million gross annual revenue in the tax year preceding the year in which the losses occurred.
- suffer 20 percent or greater loss, adjusted for normal mortality.
- be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions.

Limitations

Eligible owners may not receive payments of more than \$25,000 per person.

Payments for Individual Stands

Payments will be provided for the replacement or rehabilitation of all qualifying losses to eligible trees or vines within the individual payment limitations. Payments will provide an amount not to exceed 100 percent of the cost, adjusted for normal mortality, to replant or rehabilitate the eligible tree or vine.

Prior Approval Policy

Payments will be authorized to reimburse the cost of eligible replanting and rehabilitation measures that are implemented either before or after the owner applies for payment.

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