



Olympic National Forest

Forest Greenery

General Information: Many native plants and shrubs are popular with both the home gardener and the floral industry. Gathering and selling forest greenery is the principal source of income for many rural families and provides part-time occupations for thousands of others. Evergreen huckleberry, salal (also known as “lemon-leaf”), ferns, moss, and bear grass grown in the Pacific Northwest are prized by the floral trade throughout the nation and on many international markets. Their colorful vegetation, bright flowers, and pleasing shapes make them ideal for accenting floral arrangements or transplanting to home landscapes.

Currently, personal use permits are available for salal, huckleberry, Oregon grape, and sword fern on the Olympic National Forest. Salal is the only greenery for which commercial use permits are also available. Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) was introduced to the floral industry in the mid 1940’s. Sold as either long salal or salal tips, this greenery is popular in the United States and Europe.

Harvest Techniques: Only partial plant removal of forest greenery is allowed, requiring simple pruning and trimming tools. Generally, no mechanical equipment can be used outside the road prism without prior Forest Service permission. Equip yourself with appropriate safety equipment before going into the field. Harvest guidelines will be included in permit terms and conditions and provide for resource protection.

Personal Use Permit: Anyone 18 years of age and over is required to have a permit to remove greenery from the Olympic National Forest. Greenery harvested under a Personal Use Permit is intended for personal use and is not to be sold or traded.

Commercial Use Permit: A Commercial Use Permit is required for any individual intending to sell the salal. Individuals must be at least 18 years of age to obtain a Commercial Use Permit and may purchase one at any of the Forest Service District Offices (see below).

A 2-month permit costs \$150 and is usually available in September, November, January, and March. The final dates are announced in August. Harvesters may not have

in possession more than 200 “hands” each day. A “hand” is the amount of salal that can be held in one hand, which is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. for long salal and 1.25 lbs. of salal tips. Users must adhere to the terms and conditions of the permit, which may vary slightly from the information contained here.

Additional Regulations: Removal of cascara from the Olympic National Forest is prohibited. Harvesting rare, threatened or, endangered plants is illegal. Harvesting is prohibited in National Forest Wilderness, botanical areas, and research natural areas. Additional restrictions may apply for commercial use permits. Washington State requires a Hauling Permit for transporting commercially harvested salal within the state. These permits can only be obtained from the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

Safety Recommendations:

1. Wear orange vests or other garments to increase your visibility to hunters and other forest visitors.
2. Know the conditions of your permit, including the permissible harvest locations and other relevant boundaries.
3. In case of an emergency dial 911! Notify them of your situation and location, including the road number.
4. Be careful of large trucks and other vehicles when travelling on logging roads. Always use your headlights and ask a forest district office where active logging is occurring.
5. If you have safety concerns or questions, contact a U.S. Forest Service office.

Olympic National Forest Offices:

Supervisors Office, Olympia- 360-956-2402

Quilcene Office- 360-765-2200

Forks Office- 360-374-6522

Quinault Office- 360-288-2525