BOUGH BUYERS

• A person may not buy more than 100 pounds of decorative boughs in any calendar year without a bough buyers permit (MS 88.6435 subd.1).

• When buying or otherwise receiving decorative boughs, a person must record:
  – seller’s name and address
  – form of written consent
  – government permit number or legal description or property tax identification number of the land from which the boughs were obtained (MS 88.6435 subd.2).

• Boughs may not be purchased if the seller fails to exhibit the written consent required under section 88.642 or if the boughs do not conform to the standards specified on the consent (MS 88.6435 subd.3b).

• Records shall be maintained from July 1 until June 30 of the following year and shall be open to inspection to an officer during reasonable hours.
• Generally, in Minnesota no person shall cut, harvest, remove, transport, or possess more than 100 pounds of boughs or other decorative materials without the written consent of the owner or authorized agent of the land on which the decorative materials were cut or harvested, as stated in Minnesota Statute (MS) 88.642.

• Persons cutting boughs or decorative materials on state forest land must have a Special Product Permit for cutting any amount of these materials (MS 89.17). The Special Product Permit will also serve as the written consent.

• A person can cut, harvest, possess, or transport decorative materials from the person’s own property if the person produces documentation that the person owns the property where the decorative materials were cut (MS 88.642 subd.5b).

• Failure to comply with the requirements of sections 88.641 to 88.648 subjects the decorative materials to seizure and confiscation as contraband in addition to other penalties provided by law (MS 88.642 subd.2). Confiscated boughs harvested from state or county land can be sold with the proceeds deposited into the forest bough account. (The money is used for educational programs for harvesters and buyers.)