Enclosed, please find the *Phytophthora ramorum* Nursery Industry Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual, an industry-driven guidance document provided to you by the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers (CANGC). This project was supported by a federal TASC Grant (Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops) from the USDA to develop a comprehensive, practical, and voluntary BMP Manual for interstate shippers of host and associated host plants of *Phytophthora ramorum*, also known popularly as Sudden Oak Death (SOD).

The BMP document has been in development since 2003, with most recent input incorporating advances in research and policy. The Editors gratefully acknowledge the many growers, researchers and regulators that have provided input towards the completion of this product.

In 2006, individual management practices were considered for potential inclusion based on their conformance to a set of key 'filters' or criteria including:

- scientific validity,
- operational practicality,
- national relevancy and harmonization,
- relevancy to multiple types of production,
- practicality in terms cost and benefit and conformity with existing rules or regulations.

The key target objective is to provide a uniform platform or template to assess your nursery operation and answer the question: do you have programs/processes in place that will detect or prevent the introduction of this plant pathogen into your operation?

The manual includes a convenient *Record Keeping* section to guide you in identifying and documenting which BMPs you have implemented. Simply check the box under each appropriate BMP and record the implementation date and specific practice employed to achieve the specific BMP.

We welcome your questions and comments on the Manual and the specific BMP’s. Please forward any input to:

Karen Suslow ksuslow@hineshort.com at Hines Horticulture, Inc. or Kathy Kosta kkosta@cdfa.ca.gov at CA Department of Food and Agriculture with a copy to Robert Dolezal rdolezal@cangc.com at California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers.

We are indebted and grateful to Karen Suslow, CA Oak Mortality Task Force Nursery Chair, for her conceptual creation and shepherding of this document from start to finish and a special thank you to the CA Dept of Food and Agriculture, for their many contributions and final review of the document. We also thank the following organizations and individuals for their contributions to the manual:

- CA Center for Urban Horticulture, UC Davis: Dave Fujino
- California Dep’t. of Food and Agriculture: Amber Morris, Kathy Kosta and Cheryl Blomquist
- L.E. Cooke Nursery: David Cox
- Four Winds Nursery: Mary Helen Seeger
- Jackson and Perkins: Brian Correiar
- Monrovia Growers: John Keller
- Nurseryman’s Exchange: Ann Northrup
- Sunlet Nursery: Janet Kister
- O’Brien DC: Tom O’Brien
- Dave Wilson Nursery: Robert Woolley

Sincerely,

Bart Fornfeist
Chairman of the Board
California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers