



CALIFORNIA OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE REPORT MAY 2003

MANAGEMENT

SODBusters will be opening a Sudden Oak Death (SOD) collection yard at the Marin Resource Recovery facility on May 7, 2003. The SODBusters program, funded by the USDA Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, is managed by the UC Forest Products Laboratory. The intention of SODBusters is to collect, sort, and find productive uses for certified *Phytophthora ramorum*-infested plant material. Tree care professionals certifying that the plant debris is *Phytophthora ramorum*-infested are required to have attended a COMTF SOD training session. There will be no tipping fee for the first 30 days of operation. The collection yard will be in compliance with current State and federal regulations, will help minimize the spread of *Phytophthora ramorum*, and will provide a valuable opportunity to evaluate utilization of this material. For more information on this program, call the SODBusters toll-free hotline at (866) SOD-7411 or go the Task Force website at www.suddenoakdeath.org.

REGULATIONS

In a letter to USDA Secretary Anne Venneman, Oregon has formally requested exemption from the interim federal regulations for *Phytophthora ramorum*. The request was made because of concerns over potential spread of *Phytophthora ramorum* into agricultural and timber industries within the state. Under federal law, states must harmonize with the federal government once a federal rule is in place. However, in certain situations, a state may petition for an exemption from the federal rule. For more details on Oregon's proposed amended regulations for *Phytophthora ramorum*, contact Dr. Dan Hilburn, Oregon Department of Agriculture, at dhilburn@oda.state.or.us or Dr. Nancy Osterbauer, Oregon Department of Agriculture, at nosterba@oda.state.or.us.

MONITORING

The following update on the status of *Phytophthora ramorum* in Germany has been provided by J.G. Unger, Federal Biological Research Center for Agriculture and Forestry, Department for National and International Plant Health, Braunschweig, Germany.

A survey of *Phytophthora ramorum* was conducted at approximately 230 sites (primarily nurseries) in several regions of Germany between August and December, 2001. Out of the 53 suspicious samples taken, *Phytophthora ramorum* was detected in 11 samples of *Rhododendron spp.* and nine samples of *Viburnum spp.*



From July to October of 2002, another survey for *Phytophthora ramorum* was conducted at 672 sites. Locations, including nurseries and garden centers as well as public and private gardens, were inspected primarily for *Rhododendron* and *Viburnum* plant infections. The survey resulted in the identification of 38 confirmed *Phytophthora ramorum* infected *Rhododendron* and *Viburnum* plants. Thirty-six of the positive samples came from the 624 nurseries inspected and two of the cases were identified out of the 10 private gardens inspected. Where naturally growing oak trees were surrounding nurseries with diseased plants, the oaks were inspected and found to be disease-free.

Since November 1, 2002, the European Union's provisional emergency phytosanitary measure to prevent the introduction of *Phytophthora ramorum* has been applied.

RESEARCH

The USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection are currently seeking research proposals on *Phytophthora ramorum* and Sudden Oak Death. The deadline for submission is May 20, 2003. Please go to www.suddenoakdeath.org for instructions and information on priorities for research. Approximately \$1 million will be awarded by June, 2003.

EDUCATION

The next COMTF meeting will be held Wednesday, May 28, 2003, from 8:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Luchessi Park, Petaluma Community Center, Petaluma. Committee meetings will take place in the morning along with a general update session. The afternoon focus will be on arboriculture issues. Presenters will be coming from California, Oregon, and Washington, D.C. The meeting is free and open to all interested persons. For more information, or to register, go to www.suddenoakdeath.org or call Lucia Briggs, COMTF Coordinator at (510) 642-5938.

The next "Sampling, Recognition, and Mitigation Measures for Sudden Oak Death" training session will be held on May 29, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Luchessi Park, Petaluma Community Center, Petaluma. This centrally located session is free and open to anyone interested in improving their recognition and sampling skills for detecting *Phytophthora ramorum*. The training will combine lectures at Luchessi Park followed by field activities at Jack London State Park. Carpooling to the field is encouraged. **The pre-registration deadline for this class is May 21, 2003.** The agenda and registration information can be found on the COMTF website at www.suddenoakdeath.org. For more information, contact Heather Matwich, CDF, at (916) 653-5123.



A free Sudden Oak Death field day at the California Academy of Sciences, Pepperwood Preserve, is being offered Saturday, May 17, 2003, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The training is intended to provide timely information for homeowners as well as plant care professionals, and will include disease distribution, lectures, and a guided walk in a diseased area. For more information, contact Rob Gross at (707) 942-9139 or (707) 942-5550.

The International On-line Symposium, “Sudden Oak Death – How Concerned Should You Be?” has been extended to May 12, 2003. New discussion areas for each paper session have been added, in addition to a new topic, “Sudden Oak Death as a Disease.” The Symposium is sponsored by the American Phytopathological Society, the USDA Forest Service, and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. To access the Symposium, go to <http://sod.apsnet.org>.

PUBLICATIONS

Listed below are recent publications addressing Sudden Oak Death issues.

A new review article “Sudden oak death, endangering California and Oregon forest ecosystems” by D. M. Rizzo and M. Garbelotto can be found in the May 2003 (Issue 4, Volume 1) issue of *Frontiers of Ecology and the Environment*, a publication of the Ecological Society of America. For access to the article, go to www.frontiersinecology.org.

The American Phytopathological Society’s April APSnet feature, “Bay Laurel and Native Plants other than Oaks are the Main Hosts for the Sudden Oak Death Pathogen, *Phytophthora ramorum*, in California” by M. Garbelotto and others. The full article can be found on-line at www.apsnet.org, under browse previous articles.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 4/21 – 5/12 - “Sudden Oak Death – How Concerned Should You Be?”
International On-line Discussion Symposium at: <http://sod.apsnet.org/>
- 5/17 – California Academy of Sciences Sudden Oak Death field day, Pepperwood Preserve; contact Rob Gross at (707) 942-9139 or (707) 942-5550
- 5/23 – 24 – “Threats to Hardwood Forests” Hardwood Research Symposium sponsored by the National Hardwood Lumber Association; SOD is a highlighted topic; Session topics – Forest Threats, Management of Threats, and Recovery; Forest Discovery Center, Starlight, IN; for more information, go to <http://www.natlhardwood.org>
- 5/28 – COMTF 2003 spring meeting; Petaluma Community Center, Petaluma; contact Lucia Briggs, COMTF Coordinator at (510) 642-5938
- 5/29 – Training session in the central SOD region (Bay Area) on “Recognition, Sampling, and Regulations for *Phytophthora ramorum*,” morning lecture



- Petaluma Community Center, Petaluma; afternoon field session – Jack London State Park, Sonoma County; contact Heather Matwich, CDF, at (916) 653-5123
- 6/10 – 12 - 2003 Southwide Forest Disease Workshop, features a panel on Sudden Oak Death; Renaissance Asheville Hotel; Asheville, North Carolina; go to www.forestry.auburn.edu/enebak/swfdw/swfdw.html or contact Steve Oak at (828) 257-4322.
- 6/28 – 29 – Jepson Herbarium weekend workshop; Sudden Oak Death weekend workshop with Dr. Matteo Garbelotto and Dr. Ellen Simms at the UC Botanical Gardens, Berkeley and five regions in the greater Bay Area; limited to 20 participants; contact Anneke Swinehart, Jepson Herbarium, (510) 643-7008
- 8/9 – 13 – 2003 Annual American Phytopathological Society meeting, includes a panel on Oak Disease Threats Worldwide, and a paper on legal issues encountered in formulating the *Phytophthora ramorum* quarantine; Charlotte, North Carolina; for more information, go to <http://www.apsnet.org/meetings/2003/>