

**2008 APS CENTENNIAL MEETING
MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER, MINNEAPOLIS, MN
JULY 26-30, 2008**

<http://www.apsnet.org/meetings/abstracts.asp>

Kim, S.; Nikolaeva, E.V.; Park, S.; and Kang, S. 2008. First report of *Phytophthora hedraiandra* in Pennsylvania. *Phytopathology* 98:S82.

Phytophthora hedraiandra has been recently identified for the first time in PA. The pathogen was isolated from *Rhododendron catawbiense* showing twig blight symptoms collected from three different PA counties from June 15 to July 22, 2004 as part of the PPO national *P. ramorum* survey. The pathogen was isolated from 12 samples comprised of 'Roseum Pink,' 'Roseum Elegans,' and unknown cultivars that originated from Virginia, Oregon, and unknown sources. The cultures grown on PARP at 20°C were tentatively identified as *P. cactorum* by morphology, and stored in hemp-seed water (one culture plug from V8-200/two seeds/10 ml sterile distilled water). Lately, the pathogen was identified as *P. hedraiandra* based on its sequences of the ITS region. Koch's postulate was satisfied by inoculating *R. catawbiense* 'Roseum Pink' using the 12 isolates of *P. hedraiandra*. A detached leaf on moistened paper towel in a plastic bag was inoculated with a 5-mm disc of the inoculum on V8 200 agar and then incubated at 27°C for 7 days, 12 h light cycle (Each isolate replicated 4x). The lesion size averaged 1,215 mm(²) (SD ± 606 mm(²)). No symptoms were observed on control leaves that were inoculated with V8 200 agar plugs. *P. hedraiandra* was reisolated from the lesions. This first detection of *P. hedraiandra* in PA is from limited areas and further study is needed for comprehensive risk assessment.