

Sanitation measures to minimize pathogen spread

As a precaution against spreading the pathogen, clean and disinfect pruning tools after use on confirmed or suspected infested trees or in known infested areas. Sanitize pruning tools before pruning healthy trees or working in a pathogen-free area. Clean chippers and other vehicles of mud, dirt, leaves, and woody debris before leaving a *P. ramorum*-infested site and before entering a site with susceptible hosts.

1. Before working:

Inform crews about the arboricultural implications of *P. ramorum* and sanitation practices when they are working in infested areas.

- Provide crews with sanitation kits. (Sanitation kits should contain the following: Chlorine bleach [10/90 mixture bleach to water], or Clorox Clean-up®, scrub-brush, metal scraper, boot brush and plastic gloves).
- Sanitize shoes, pruning gear and other equipment before working in an area with susceptible species.

2. While working:

- When possible, work on *P. ramorum*-infected and susceptible species during the dry season (June - October), or ask customers to allow flexible scheduling so work may be done during dry spells. When working in wet conditions, keep equipment on paved or dry surfaces and avoid mud.
- Work in disease-free areas before proceeding to infested areas.
- Do not collect soil or plant material (wood, brush, leaves and litter) from host trees in the regulated area without first contacting your local agricultural commissioner. Within the regulated area, host material (e.g. wood, bark, brush, chips, leaves, or firewood) from tree removals or pruning of symptomatic or non-symptomatic plants should remain on site to minimize pathogen spread.

3. After working

- Use all reasonable methods to sanitize personal gear and crew equipment before leaving a *P. ramorum*-infested site. Scrape, brush and/or hose off accumulated soil and mud from clothing, gloves, boots and shoes. Remove mud and plant debris by blowing it out or power washing chipper trucks, chippers, buckets trucks, fertilization and soil aeration equipment, cranes, and other vehicles.

- Restrict the movement of soil and leaf litter under and around infected trees as spores may be found there. Contaminated soil, particularly mud, on vehicle tires, workers boots, shovels, stump grinders, trenchers, etc., may result in pathogen spread if moved to a new, uninfested site. Remove or wash off soil and mud from these items before use at another site. If complete on-site sanitation is not possible, complete the work at a local power wash facility or an isolation area in your equipment yard. Clean, orderly vehicles and equipment are good business, and prevent pathogen and insect spread.
- Tools used in tree removal/pruning may become contaminated and should be disinfected with Lysol® spray, a 70% or greater solution of alcohol, or a Clorox® solution (1 part Chlorox® to 9 parts water or Clorox Clean-up®). Remember that these products are corrosive to metal and fabric. Rinse your gear after sanitation.
- Report suspected cases of *P. ramorum* to the local county agricultural commissioner.