

NATIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATED WITH SUDDEN OAK DEATH (SOD) AND THEIR USE BY CALIFORNIA INDIANS – FACT SHEET No. 17

The plant disease caused by a fungus-like microorganism, *Phytophthora ramorum*, is referred to as “Sudden Oak Death” because of its association with premature death in tanoak trees. This disease occurs in Northern California wildlands and affects several native California plants, including Coast Redwood. Susceptible plants can become infected through exposure to water borne infective agents via rainfall, splash or drainage. In addition to natural spread of the disease, it can also be transmitted by human transport of infected plants and their parts to susceptible new plants in the environment. Good cultural practices and restrictions on the movement of infected material can minimize the risk of spreading the disease. For more information, please refer to website links for the U.S. Department Of Agriculture/Plant Protection And Quarantine (www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/pramorom/), the California Department Of Food And Agriculture (www.cdfa.ca.gov), the California Oak Mortality Task Force (<http://nature.berkeley.edu/comtf>), or contact your local County Department Of Agriculture.

Common Name: Coast Redwood

Scientific Name: *Sequoia sempervirens*



Photo courtesy of Virginia Tech Forestry Dept.

Cahto Name:	gaashchow, gashchow
Karuk Name:	uthkanpáhiip
Kashaya Pomo Name:	qasil (redwood tree), casí?da (redwood bark slab)
Yokia Name:	gä sēl'
Yuki Name:	tatu
Yurok Name:	nolit (burl on a redwood tree)

Past and possibly present tribal uses.

Costonoan: Sprouts from burls were used in basketry.

Mendocino Indians: Lumber was used to construct houses. Fallen logs were hollowed out by fire to make canoes.

Pomo: Bark was leaned together in a circle to make housing. A poultice of warmed new foliage was used to treat earaches. An infusion of gummy sap was taken as a tonic. Pieces of bark were used by young girls to play dolls.

Tolowa: Wood was used for building materials and to make canoes.

Yuki: The bark was used in the construction of plank housing.

Yurok: Wood was used for building materials and to make canoes for themselves or for trade with Karuks.