

## NATIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATED WITH SUDDEN OAK DEATH (SOD) AND THEIR USE BY CALIFORNIA INDIANS – FACT SHEET No. 30

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 Oregon Ash. 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/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/pramorom/)), the California Department Of Food And Agriculture ([www.cdfa.ca.gov](http://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: Oregon Ash

Scientific Name: *Fraxinus latifolia*



Photo courtesy of Virginia Tech Forestry Dept.

Cahto Name: tc'aah-tc'il'iin (ash tree)

Karuk Name: akrávsiiip

Yokia Name: gä lām'

Yuki Name: pök

### Past and possibly present tribal uses.

Costanoan: A cold infusion of twigs was used for fevers and leaves were placed in sandals as a snake repellent.

Karuk: The bark was used to prevent bad effects of medicine used by ceremonially impure persons and the roots were used in making baskets.

Kawaiisu: Peeled ash poles, 10 or more feet long were used to knock down pinyon cones.

Mendocino Indians: The wood was used to make walking canes, handles and small tools.

Yokia: Fresh roots were mashed and used to treat wounds.

Yuki: The wood was used for fuel, and to make smoking pipes.