



USDA *Phytophthora ramorum* Educate to Detect (PRED) Program

Outreach and screening for homeowner plant samples with symptoms of *Phytophthora ramorum*, cause of Sudden Oak Death and other diseases

Issue: In spring 2004, potentially infected ornamental plants were shipped throughout much of the United States. The plants came from a few nurseries that inadvertently shipped containerized rhododendron, camellia and other plants infected with *Phytophthora ramorum*, cause of Sudden Oak Death and other diseases. Since *P. ramorum* is a quarantined pathogen, nurseries that received potentially infected plants were inspected, and infected plants recovered and destroyed at over 160 sites in 21 states. However, because many plants were sold prior to inspections, this project aims to educate the public so that suspicious plants in residential landscapes can be reported and tested.

Background on Sudden Oak Death: Sudden Oak Death is a forest disease caused by the quarantine plant pathogenic water mold *Phytophthora ramorum*. This pathogen has caused widespread death of tanoak and several oak species (coast live oak, California black oak, and others) in California's coastal counties and in southwest Oregon. It has also been found to infect the leaves and twigs of numerous other plants species. While many of these "foliar hosts," such as camellias and rhododendrons do not die from the disease, they do play a key role in the spread of *P. ramorum*, acting as a breeding ground for inoculum, which may then be spread through wind-driven rain, water, or human activity to other plants, including native vegetation. For more information see www.suddenoakdeath.org.

Project Objective: Early detection of ornamental plants infected with *Phytophthora ramorum*

Program overview and status:

1. Briefing of state cooperators and others on purpose, need and desired outcomes. (COMPLETED via conference call July 26, 2004 and August 10, 2004).
2. National training in detection and screening of potentially infected plants. (A training session is scheduled via teleconference on October 26. Also a website of resources is posted at www.ncipm.org/sod.)

3. States develop program asking the public to notify Master Gardeners and others if they have symptomatic, potentially infected plants on their property. – (Pending in most states)
4. Plant disease diagnostic labs at land grant universities and state agriculture departments analyze samples to determine if *P. ramorum* is present. (Pending in most states)
5. If positive plants are identified quarantine procedures will be implemented by state and federal regulatory officials. (Pending, if needed)

More details on October 26, 2004 National *P. ramorum* training

The training program for Master Gardeners and state and county staff, will consist of web-based materials, including a downloadable PowerPoint presentation, script, and a national teleconference scheduled for October 26th, 2004 at 3 pm ET, The presentation will be given by teleconference phone lines. A panel of experts will be available at the end of the presentation to answer questions. A questionnaire to determine the need to submit a homeowner sample, with links to symptoms, has also been developed.

Individual states have the option of holding state-specific break-out sessions immediately after the national session. The USDA CSREES is working with State departments of agriculture and the land-grant universities to develop individual, state-specific plans for public education, detection and handling of homeowner plant samples that might be infected by *P. ramorum*. State and land-grant university plant disease clinics are gearing up to support the effort.

Cooperators: USDA-Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES), USDA-Forest Service and USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN), USDA Regional Integrated Pest Management Centers, Extension Service Master Gardener programs, Pesticide Safety Education Program, state forestry departments, state department of agriculture, state universities and others.

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For more information: See <http://ncipm.org/sod/> or contact Susan Ratcliffe, North Central IPM Facilitator, North Central IPM Center, sratclif@uiuc.edu; or Carla Thomas, Deputy Director, Western Plant Diagnostic Network, cthomas@ucdavis.edu.