

CDFA Protocol for Baiting the Root Ball in a Pot for *Phytophthora* spp.

- Collect fully expanded fresh leaves of Rhododendron (CDFA lab uses *R. 'Cunningham's White'*) from plants not treated with fungicides.
- Wound the leaves by cutting off the tip and the petiole with a clean razor blade. One can also wound leaves with wounding device such as a "joining plate" available at lumber or hardware store to press down onto the leaves.
- Place 2 leaves leaf in pot under root ball and two leaves on side of pot. For liners, place 3 leaves on sides of pots.
- Thoroughly water plants with distilled water until about 2 cm water accumulates in sauce under the pot. Alternatively, the pot can be placed in a heavy-duty Ziploc bag or in a clean tray or pan to contain the water. Note that if root systems are small and likely to fall apart, leaves can be placed under the pot in the saucer.



Photos: Jennifer Parke (OSU)

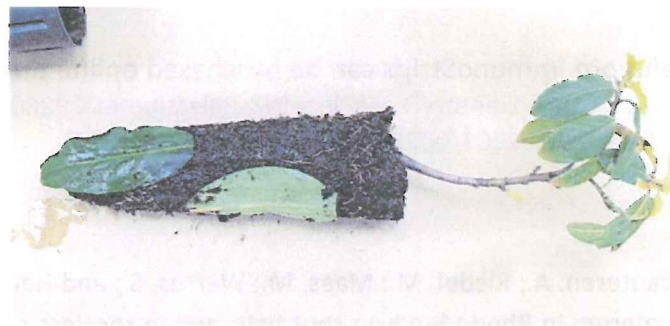


Photo : Suzanne Latham (CDFA)

- Incubate 3-5 days to allow for lesion development on the leaves.
- After 3-5 days, lift plants out of pot and retrieve bait leaves.



Photo: (L) Suzanne Latham (CDFA) and (R) Jennifer Parke (OSU)

- Wash leaves under running tap water; blot dry with paper towel. Testing of the leaves can be done using various methods:
 1. **Agdia *Phytophthora* spp. ImmunoStrips***.
 2. **Agdia *Phytophthora* Immunoassay** (Send leaves to a testing laboratory such as CDFA)
 3. **Culture:** Isolate and plate onto PARP or PARPH media (Recommend CDFA or other laboratory that can identify *Phytophthora* spp. and distinguish them from *Pythium* spp).

*Agdia *Phytophthora* ImmunoStrips can be purchased online through Agdia's website:

https://orders.agdia.com/InventoryD.asp?loc=IN&collection=ISK 92601&attribute_Size=25
Item# ISK 92601/0025 25 Strips for \$145

Reference: Vercauteren, A.; Riedel, M.; Maes, M.; Werres, S.; and Heungens, K. 2012. Survival of *Phytophthora ramorum* in Rhododendron root balls and in rootless substrates. *Plant Pathology*. 62:166-176. DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-3059.2012.02627.x