

U.S. NURSERY DETECTIONS AND REGULATORY UPDATE USDA APHIS PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE, NATIONAL OPERATIONS

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February 2014**

Detections

In 2013, 18 nurseries were confirmed *Phytophthora ramorum* positive in four states (CA-1, OR-10, WA-6, and NY-1). Fifteen were interstate shippers; however, only seven actually shipped interstate. Two of the seven were online retail nurseries. All trace-forward investigations conducted in receiving states were negative for the pathogen.

The number of *P. ramorum*-positive nurseries in 2012 was more than double that of 2013, with 38 sites (34 nurseries, 3 residential landscapes, and 1 commercial landscape) in 8 states having been reported positive (CA, OR, WA, NC, ME, NY, PA and IN). Eighteen of the 34 nurseries were interstate shippers, of which 10 actually shipped interstate. Trace-forward investigations identified six of the detections (2 nurseries, 3 residential landscapes, and 1 commercial landscape), some intrastate and some interstate.

The Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regulatory program relies on the diagnostic services provided by the State Department of Agriculture labs in CA, OR, and WA; PPQ labs in KS, PA, and Beltsville, MD; and National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) labs across the US.

Monitoring

Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Field Operations coordinated with 20 states to conduct Farm Bill *P. ramorum* program-directed nursery surveys. Over 500 nurseries were surveyed, and symptomatic plants were sampled. No detections were reported. Samples collected from these surveys were processed by NPDN hub labs, state and university labs, and the PPQ labs in KS and PA.

Nursery Research and Outreach

In FY13, APHIS cooperators received over \$1.4 million for *P. ramorum* programs. Funded projects included a tri-state soil steaming pilot to try and eliminate *P. ramorum* from infested nursery soil; nursery outreach regarding critical control points/best management practices; the assessment of disinfectants for *P. ramorum* control; and the development and testing of an online service for regulated nurseries to ease issues with notification for interstate shipments.

A Risk-Based Regulatory Approach

A Federal Order (DA-2013-27) was issued July 2013 that dropped certification requirements (annual inspections, sampling, and testing) for non-host nurseries in the regulated areas of CA, OR, and WA. The intent of the Order is to reduce the regulatory burden on the more than 1,500 nurseries where *P. ramorum* has not been detected since regulations for nurseries outside the quarantine area were first put in place 10 years ago. This change does not apply to the quarantine counties (14 CA counties and part of Curry County, OR).

Additionally, as a result of 3 years of analysis by PPQ in collaboration with subject matter experts from the State Departments of Agriculture, the National Plant Board, and industry, another Federal Order (DA-2014-02) was issued January 10, 2014 with an implementation date of March 31, 2014. This Order targets high-risk nurseries (recently and/or recurrently positive in the past 3 years) and requires an enhanced compliance program. All nurseries found positive in the past 3 years that wish to retain interstate shipping status will be subject to increased inspection, sampling, and testing. In addition, any U.S. interstate shipping nursery found positive will be regulated and required to address critical control points (CCPs) via remediation, mitigation, and best management practices (BMPs) in order to retain their interstate shipping status. Conversely, certification and requirements (annual inspection, sampling, and testing) will no longer be required for host nurseries in the regulated areas where *P. ramorum* has never been detected or has not been detected in the last 3 years. This relieves the regulatory burden for more than 1,400 nurseries in the regulated areas of CA, OR, and WA. APHIS will provide FY14 funding to regulated states to conduct CCP/BMP outreach to host nurseries where certification is no longer required.

For more information on the latest Federal Order, go to http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pram/downloads/pdf_files/DA-2014-02.pdf or contact Stacy E Scott at USDA APHIS PPQ, at (970) 494-7577 or stacy.e.scott@aphis.usda.gov.