

Oregon Department of Agriculture *Phytophthora ramorum* Nursery Program 2020 Summary Report

In 2020, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) *Phytophthora ramorum* Nursery Program worked with nine interstate shippers under federal compliance agreements (7 CFR 301.92). These nurseries are located in Polk (1), Washington (1), Marion (4), Columbia (1), Lane (1), and Linn (1) Counties. The ODA also holds compliance agreements with four intrastate shippers, which are regulated under Oregon state quarantine requirements (7 CFR 301.92 and OAR 603-052-1230). The nurseries are located in Marion, Clackamas, Tillamook, and Lincoln Counties. Table 1 summarizes ODA's results for the work described in this report. Table 2 (on pg. 2) lists plant species with *P. ramorum* detections in 2020.

	Survey Type	Foliar		Soil		Water	
		Sampled	Pr (+)	Sampled	Pr (+)	Sampled	Pr (+)
Spring	Compliance	1,935	0	0	0	0	0
	Trace	17	2	0	0	0	0
	CNP*	717	69	30	4	4	0
Fall	Compliance	1,449	4	0	0	0	0
	Trace	0	0	0	0	0	0
	CNP*	203	2, with results pending	28	results pending	2	results pending
TOTAL		4,321	75	58	4	6	0

Table 1: Results from surveys conducted at nurseries under federal and state compliance surveys. *CNP is Confirmed Nursery Protocol survey.

Spring compliance surveys were completed by May. The ODA tested 1,935 foliar samples for *P. ramorum*; all were negative. Much of the spring to summer season was spent carrying out the USDA Confirmed Nursery Protocol (CNP) at two nurseries that were confirmed positive in late 2019. Later, a third nursery was confirmed positive for the first time in late May. The program then focused on delimitation work as part of the CNP at this property. At each nursery, more than the required amount of plant material was destroyed by each grower. Confirmed positive soil was mitigated by steaming, which was performed by ODA in the summer months. *P. ramorum* was not detected in any of the water sampled.



Figures 1 & 2. Confirmed positive Rhododendrons. Figure 3. Collecting soil samples during Confirmed Nursery Protocol (CNP) survey.

In August, the ODA planned to steam previously confirmed positive soil at three nurseries. Steaming was completed at two of these locations without issue. The third had three plots to be treated. At the time steaming was to be performed, ODA officials determined steaming to be not possible for two of the plots due to irrigation issues and standing water in the hoop houses that were to be treated. Working with the nursery and cooperative extension, actions were identified to improve drainage and irrigation in these hoop houses. These actions were included in the updated compliance agreement. This area of the nursery remains fallow and under quarantine. The third plot was in a container yard, not near the hoop houses, and was steamed as planned.



Figure 4. Plants double bagged for municipal landfill disposal.
Figure 5. Soil steaming to mitigate positive *P. ramorum* soil in August 2020.

Fall compliance surveys were completed by end of November. Between mid-November and Christmas, three nurseries were confirmed positive. The nurseries have been undergoing the USDA Confirmed Nursery Protocol. More than the required amount of plant material was destroyed by each grower. No positive soil or water was detected. To date, destruction of plant material has been completed at two of the nurseries. The third nursery is still undergoing the destruction process. Only one intrastate shipper was confirmed positive. Shortly before confirmation ODA received news that the owner of the nursery passed away. ODA oversaw that plant material was destroyed appropriately and the grower opted to destroy remaining inventory. ODA is staying in communication with the grower to determine what the next steps for this land will be.

Genus/Species	Cultivar
<i>Rhododendron</i>	Edith Boseley, Cunningham White, Polarnacht, Minnetonka, Roseum Pink, Ignacous Sargeant, Solidarity, Valaspis, Blue Peter, Dark Load, Ocean Lake, War Dance, Yaku Princess, Blutopia, Karen Triplette, Seaview Sunset, Warlock, Harvest Moon, Marie Forte, Holden's Solar Flair, Elmer's Orphan, Dreamland, Chionoides
<i>Pieris japonica</i>	n/a
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	n/a
<i>Leucothoe</i> spp.	n/a

Table 2: Known regulated plants that were confirmed positive for *P. ramorum* in 2020 in Oregon.

In 2020, two nurseries successfully completed program requirements (six consecutive inspections with no *P. ramorum* detected) and were formally released. One was an intrastate shipper located in Tillamook County (first confirmed in 2013). The second was an interstate shipper located in Lane County (first confirmed 2015).

Funding for the *P. ramorum* Nursery Program is provided by the United States Department of Agriculture. These funds are used to cover costs associated with field operations, laboratory diagnostic work, and salaries for program staff. In 2020, USDA-APHIS increased the sampling requirements for interstate shippers under federal compliance agreements. This resulted in an increase from 197 to up to 326 foliar samples collected per nursery as each interstate shipper in Oregon's program has at least 9,000 regulated plants in its respective inventory. ODA requested and received increased additional funding to compensate for the increased in costs for sample processing and testing. Although the program did not increase staffing, and even with the challenges posed by COVID-19, there were no significant setbacks in getting samples collected and processed. For more information contact Chris Benemann, sbenemann@oda.state.or.us. Photo credits: Melissa Lujan, ODA Horticulturist.