

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) *Phytophthora ramorum* program - 2020 Summary Report

WSDA assisted in the required certification sampling for Washington's only interstate shipping nursery under a Federal compliance agreement for *P. ramorum*. Spring and fall surveys were conducted at the nursery. All foliar samples were negative in 2020.

WSDA inspected seven of the nine 'opt-out' nurseries in 2020. These are nurseries that 'opted-out' of the USDA DA-2014-2 regulations and can no longer ship interstate. Host material appeared free of symptoms and no samples were collected. WSDA confirmed the nine 'opt-out' nurseries are not shipping interstate.

WSDA conducted the required follow up inspections at two retail nurseries that were positive in 2019 and underwent the Retail CNP. All plants on site were visually inspected for symptoms of *P. ramorum*. Plants appeared healthy and no samples were collected. Follow up inspections will occur at these nurseries in 2021.

Trace-Forward Activity. WSDA Plant Services staff traced out plants shipped by a positive out-of-state nursery last spring. In King County two landscapers received trace-forward *Rhododendron* 'Polarnacht' and installed them at four different residential sites. Rhododendrons at all four sites were sampled and found to be infected with *P. ramorum*. During the delimitation survey positive soil was detected at two locations. Destruction of plant material and treatment of positive soil occurred according to the Confirmed Residential Protocol. All residential sites met the requirements for release by the USDA. Follow-up inspections are scheduled for 2021.

Other Activity. WSDA continues to assist the USDA at a botanical garden in Kitsap County found positive for *P. ramorum* in 2015. Two vegetation surveys were performed in 2020. Surveys were conducted in areas near previous positive sites and in large buffer areas around previous positive sites. All plant samples were negative for *P. ramorum*. Six water baits from a small pond below the mitigated areas of the garden were confirmed positive in 2020, as in previous years. Water baiting and a single vegetation survey will occur in 2021. After testing hundreds of vegetation samples each year, the last positive plant sample detected at this site dates from February 2016. For more information contact Scott Brooks, SBrooks@agr.wa.gov.