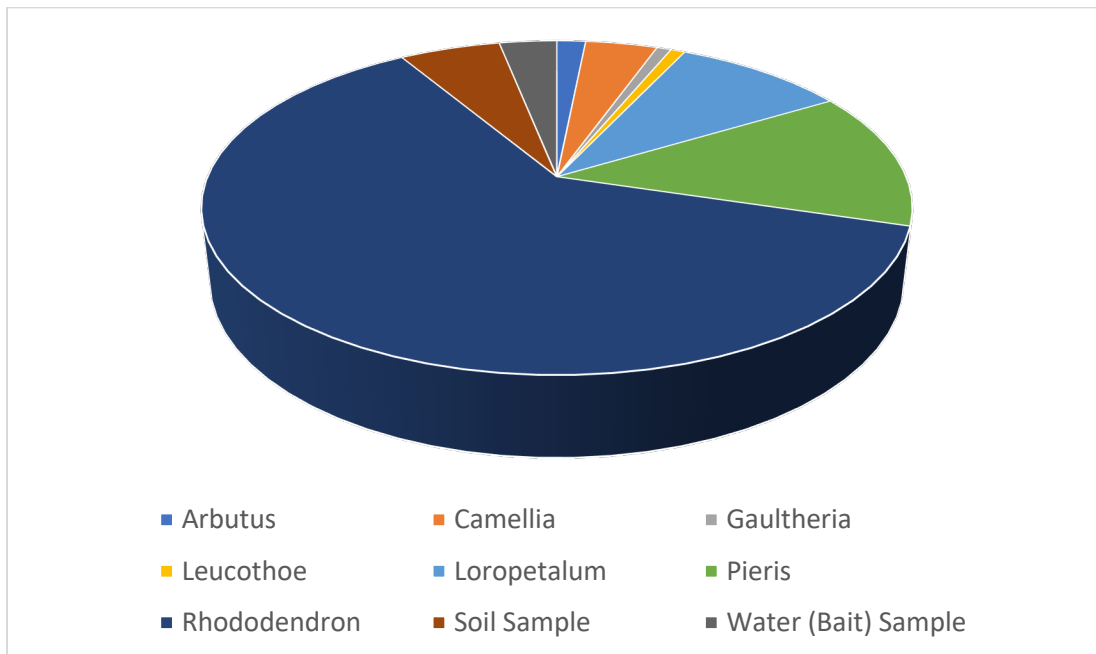


USDA APHIS 2021 mid-year *Phytophthora ramorum* program update. USDA APHIS and APHIS accredited laboratories have confirmed 128 positive samples for *P. ramorum* in various establishments (regulatory incidents) thus far in 2021. Rhododendron plants continue to be the most commonly detected infected genus, comprising 61.7% of the positive samples confirmed so far this year. The next most common genera to test positive were *Pieris* and *Loropetalum*, with 13.3% and 9.4% respectively (Table 1 and Figure 1).

Table 1. Number and percentage of samples collected from nurseries and other establishments that were confirmed positive for *P. ramorum* by APHIS and APHIS accredited laboratories from January 1 through July 19, 2021.

Sample type	# Samples	Percent
Arbutus	2	1.6
Camellia	5	3.9
Gaultheria	1	0.8
Leucothoe	1	0.8
Loropetalum	12	9.4
Pieris	17	13.3
Rhododendron	79	61.7
Soil Sample	7	5.5
Water (Bait) Sample	4	3.1
Grand Total	128	100.00

Figure 1. Relative number of samples confirmed positive by APHIS and APHIS accredited laboratories for *P. ramorum* between January 1 and July 19, 2021. See Table 1 for numbers and percentages.



Confirmed positive samples have been detected at interstate nurseries and retail nurseries including big box stores (Table 2). For the interstate nurseries, most were previously positive establishments, with only one testing positive for the first time. For retail locations, only one had previously tested positive. In a managed landscape, two positive water sample was collected at a location that had previously tested positive.

Table 2. Number of establishments confirmed positive for *P. ramorum* by APHIS or APHIS accredited laboratories from January 1 through July 19, 2021.

Type of Establishment	# Establishments	Subtotal of Type	# Previously Positive	# New
Interstate Shipping Nursery	8		7	1
Intrastate Nursery	6		1	5
Retail nursery		4		
Big Box Store		2		
Other (Managed Landscape)	1		1	
Total	15		9	6

Sample are collected as part of annual surveys, compliance requirements such as compliance inspections or delimiting surveys or trace forward investigations. The number of establishments and the total number of samples were establishment are listed Table 3.

Table 3. Establishments and total number of sample positives for *P. ramorum* by reason for sampling detected during January 1 through July 19, 2021.

Reason for Sampling	Type of Establishment		
	Interstate Shipper	Retail Nursery	Other (Managed Landscape)
Annual Survey	1 establishment/1 sample	1 establishment/1 sample	None
Compliance (inspection, delimitation survey)	7 establishments/96 samples total	None	1 establishment/2 samples
Trace investigation	None	5 establishments/6 samples total	None