



REPORT TO THE CALIFORNIA OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE OCTOBER 2002

REGULATIONS

Changes to the Canadian *Phytophthora ramorum* quarantine. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has added Coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) to the list of regulated species for import into Canada. They are regulating all non-manufactured wood products **with bark**, of the regulated species listed, including logs, bark, mulch, pulpwood, and firewood. This is in contrast to California and United States regulations that regulate only Coast redwood and Douglas-fir seedlings, needles, twigs, and branches less than 1" in diameter.

CFIA did ease up its restrictions on nursery stock in soil from California and has set up a program to accept plants grown in California counties not known to be infested with *Phytophthora ramorum*. As of September 5, 2002, an additional certification method for nursery stock shipments to Canada has been added for uninfested counties. The potting material used in the nursery (often redwood bark and sand) must also originate in an uninfested county. For further details, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) import requirements concerning *Phytophthora ramorum* may be viewed on CFIA's website at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/protect/dir/directe.shtml>. Canada does not accept any nursery stock from the 12 infested counties even if the plant species are not known to be susceptible to *Phytophthora ramorum* due to the risk of the soil being infested.

MANAGEMENT

Santa Cruz County's "Sudden Oak Death Hazard Tree Assessment, Removal, and Restoration Plan" was submitted to the Board of Forestry for approval in September and was approved. To date, Marin, Sonoma, Monterey, and Santa Cruz have plans approved by the Board. For information on a county plan, please contact the appropriate agricultural commissioner for the specific county.

EDUCATION

On September 17, 2002, the University of California, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Humboldt County Agriculture Commissioner, Institute for Sustainable Forestry, and the California Oak Mortality Task Force organized a public seminar in Redway (the area first confirmed to have *Phytophthora ramorum* in Humboldt County). Approximately 145 landowners and resource professionals listened to presentations by Mark Stanley, Jack Marshall, and Yana Valachovic at the Redway School Auditorium. The seminar was designed to provide a summary of what is known and not known about the disease and what actions the community can take on a personal level to help slow the spread of the disease. Thanks to everyone for attending, Redway School for use of the Auditorium, CDF staff for making cookies, and KMUD for recording the event for broadcast.

**RESEARCH**

The first report of *Phytophthora ramorum* on *Rhododendron* sp. in Spain was published in the September 2002 issue of the journal *Plant Disease* (Vol. 86, Number 9). Two shipments of rhododendrons from the towns of Palma and Santa Maria del Cami showed twig blight and necrotic spots at leaf tips and edges. (The Spanish scientist that recovered the pathogen, E. Moralejo will be attending the Sudden Oak Death Science Symposium in Monterey in December.)

Sudden Oak Death Science Symposium registration and program information is now available at <http://danr.ucop.edu/ihrmp/sodsymposium.html>. The conference will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Monterey, December 15-18, 2002.

TASK FORCE BUSINESS

The California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF) welcomes Lucia Briggs as the new Task Force Coordinator. Lucia came to work for the Task Force in September and is located on the UC Berkeley campus in the Center for Forestry offices. She has a strong background in natural resources, with professional experience with the Internet, coordination of educational projects, and customer service. In her role with the Task Force, Lucia will be handling the activities of the Task Force on a statewide level. Lucia can be reached via email at lbriggs@nature.berkeley.edu or at 510-642-5938.

MONITORING

Maggi Kelly, UC Berkeley, Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management Department has been awarded a New Investigator Program Award from NASA for her work entitled "Sudden Oak Death in California: Spatial Analysis for Testing Hypotheses of Disease Spread." The \$200,000 award over 3 years will be used to continue her research in mapping affected hosts and modeling spread of the disease in China Camp State Park. NASA's New Investigator Program (NIP) in Earth Science was established to encourage integrated environments for research and education for scientists and engineers at the early stage of their professional careers.

LEGISLATION

Sudden Oak Death Assembly Bill 2251 (Nation and Migden) was signed by Governor Davis. The bill establishes a program in the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) to detect; treat, if possible; or remove trees infected with *Phytophthora ramorum*. The bill encourages tree management and requires CDF and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to cooperate in enforcing *P. ramorum* quarantines. The complete text of the bill can be found at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>.

MEDIA

The NY Times Science Section, October 1, 2002, "As Trees Die, Biologists Battle Back," by Carol Kaesuk Yoon, provides an overview of the story of *Phytophthora ramorum* from the first detections to the present.

**CORRECTIONS TO THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**

In the “Another canker-causing *Phytophthora* from California and Oregon forest trees has been found,” Jenny Davidson was listed as the presenter at the APS meeting, when in fact Everett Hansen made the presentation.

The “A new species of *Phytophthora* has been reported on Beech (*Betula spp.*) trees in New York and Connecticut” mention in the September newsletter incorrectly classifies the Beech referred to as *Betula spp.*, when it should be European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*).

DATES TO REMEMBER

10/18/02 “Sudden Oak Death: issues and implications for management, policy and society” Susan Frankel, 4:00 PM, Booth Auditorium, School of Law, Boalt Hall, University of California, Berkeley. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information contact Al Stangenberger at 510-642-4424 or forags@nature.berkeley.edu.

10/26 - 11/18/02 – “The Art of Saving Oaks” art auction and exhibit in Bay Model, Sausalito; contact Carol Haggerty at chaggert@pacbell.net

12/15–18/02 - COMTF meeting and SOD Research Symposium in Monterey; contact Pat Shea at pjshea@davis.com

THE LEARNING CURVE

Frequently asked questions regarding *Phytophthora ramorum*'s impacts on Coast redwood and Douglas-fir:

The redwood in my yard is shedding needles and a few branches have died back. How can I tell if my tree is infested with *Phytophthora ramorum*? Check the COMTF website to view pictures of what infection on Coast redwood looks like. Look for symptoms of *Phytophthora ramorum* on other plants in the area, especially bay laurel. Keep in mind that it is fall and needle drop is normal as branches are shaded out and needles age. For more assistance, contact your County Agriculture Commissioner's office – their phone numbers are on the Task Force website (www.suddenoakdeath.org), available in the phone book, and also on the Internet.

Is it safe to use redwood bark as mulch in my garden? To date there is no scientific evidence to indicate that redwood bark can support growth of *Phytophthora ramorum*, so the risk of contaminating an area via redwood bark mulch is considered very low.

How are Coast redwood burls regulated? Redwood burls sold in souvenir and other shops are regulated if they are sprouting. The sprouts should be broken off prior to shipment out of the 12 county regulated area. If the burl is in opaque packaging, the package should be opened and checked to ensure the absence of sprouts prior to shipment.



How are Coast redwood, Douglas-fir seedlings, and Christmas trees regulated?

Coast redwood, Douglas-fir seedlings, and Christmas trees are treated the same as other host nursery stock. Nurseries and Christmas tree farms are subject to annual inspections and each lot must be inspected prior to shipment. The inspections are carried out by the appropriate County Agriculture Commissioner's office.