

## NATIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATED WITH SUDDEN OAK DEATH (SOD) AND THEIR USE BY CALIFORNIA INDIANS – FACT SHEET No. 38

The plant disease caused by a fungus-like microorganism, *Phytophthora ramorum*, is referred to as “Sudden Oak Death” because of its association with premature death in tanoak trees. This disease occurs in Northern California wildlands and affects several native California plants, including Salal. Susceptible plants can become infected through exposure to water borne infective agents via rainfall, splash or drainage. In addition to natural spread of the disease, it can also be transmitted by human transport of infected plants and their parts to susceptible new plants in the environment. Good cultural practices and restrictions on the movement of infected material can minimize the risk of spreading the disease. For more information, please refer to website links for the U.S. Department Of Agriculture/Plant Protection And Quarantine ([www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/pramorur/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/pramorur/)), the California Department Of Food And Agriculture ([www.cdffa.ca.gov](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov)), the California Oak Mortality Task Force (<http://nature.berkeley.edu/comtf>), or contact your local County Department Of Agriculture.

Common Name: Salal

Scientific Name: Gaultheria shallon



Photo courtesy of Virginia Tech Dept. of Forestry

Cahto Name: t'aan'teel (salal berry)

Kashaya Pomo Name: košó?šo q<sup>h</sup>ale (salalberry plant)

košó?šo (berries)

Yurok Name: mahkew (salal bush)

mahkuhl (salal berry)

### Past and possibly present tribal uses.

Karuk: The berries were used for food and they were also rubbed over basket caps to produce a black stain.

Kashaya Pomo: The berries were eaten fresh and also used in pies and pudding. Pregnant women were not supposed to eat the berries for fear that the newborn baby would be very dark. Even the father had to resist eating them.

Pomo: Berries were used as food either raw or cooked.

Tolowa: Fresh berries were used as food.

Yurok: Fresh berries were used as food.