

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION  
DA-2015-17  
April 3, 2015

Subject: APHIS Expands *Phytophthora ramorum* Quarantine in California to Include Trinity County

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is expanding the *Phytophthora ramorum* quarantine area in California to include Trinity County. APHIS is taking this action in response to the confirmation on February 13, 2014, of *Phytophthora ramorum* on tan oak (*Lithocarpus densiflorus*) trees located in Trinity County and the establishment of an interstate quarantine that mirrors the federal regulatory requirements as specified in 7 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) 301.92. This Federal Order will expand the current number of quarantined counties in California from fourteen to fifteen.

*Phytophthora ramorum* is the pathogen that causes sudden oak death (SOD), ramorum leaf blight, or ramorum dieback. Sudden oak death was first reported in 1995 in Mill Valley (Marin County), California, on tan oak. Since that time, the pathogen has been confirmed on various native hosts in Curry County, Oregon, and, with the latest find in Trinity County, fifteen California counties as listed below.

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Alameda      | 9. San Francisco   |
| 2. Contra Costa | 10. San Mateo      |
| 3. Humboldt     | 11. Santa Clara    |
| 4. Lake         | 12. Santa Cruz     |
| 5. Marin        | 13. Solano         |
| 6. Mendocino    | 14. Sonoma         |
| 7. Monterey     | <b>15. Trinity</b> |
| 8. Napa         |                    |

Through ongoing surveys, APHIS continues to define the extent of the pathogen's distribution in the United States and limit its artificial spread beyond infected areas through quarantine and a public education program. Details on APHIS-designated *P. ramorum* quarantined and regulated areas and conditions to move regulated articles are in 7 CFR 301.92 and at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/sod>

For more information about the *P. ramorum* program and federal regulations, you may call National Policy Manager Prakash Hebbar at 301-851-2228 or National Operations Manager Stacy Scott at 970-494-7577.

/s/

Osama El-Lissy  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

## FEDERAL ORDER

### *Phytophthora ramorum*

#### Expansion of Quarantined Areas in California to include Trinity County

DA-2015-17

April 3, 2015

This Federal Order expands the list of quarantined areas for *P. ramorum* to include Trinity County, California.

This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a). The Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, or article, if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States. This Federal Order is also issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act found at 7 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) §301.92 *et seq.*

Effective immediately, this Federal Order quarantines Trinity County in California for *Phytophthora ramorum*. The FO will expand the number of quarantine counties in California from fourteen to fifteen. APHIS is taking this action in response to the confirmation on February 13, 2014, of *Phytophthora ramorum* on tan oak (*Lithocarpus densiflorus*) trees located in Trinity County. Thus, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) finds it necessary to regulate Trinity County to prevent the spread of *P. ramorum*. Effective immediately, all interstate movement of *P. ramorum* regulated articles from Trinity County must be done in accordance with any applicable provisions of this Federal Order and the regulations promulgated pursuant to the Plant Protection Act found at 7 CFR 301.92 *et seq.*

Section 7 CFR 301.92-3(a)(1) allows the designation of less than an entire state as a *P. ramorum* quarantined area only when the APHIS Administrator has determined—as in this case—that the designation of less than an entire state as a quarantined *P. ramorum* area is adequate to prevent the interstate spread of infestations of *P. ramorum*. In addition, 7 CFR 301.92-3(a) requires that the state enforce an intrastate *P. ramorum* quarantine that is equivalent to the federal *P. ramorum* regulations. The state plant regulatory official for California has confirmed the establishment of an intrastate quarantine for Trinity County and the other quarantined counties listed below that mirrors the federal regulatory requirements as specified in 7 CFR 301.92.

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|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Alameda      | 9. San Francisco   |
| 2. Contra Costa | 10. San Mateo      |
| 3. Humboldt     | 11. Santa Clara    |
| 4. Lake         | 12. Santa Cruz     |
| 5. Marin        | 13. Solano         |
| 6. Mendocino    | 14. Sonoma         |
| 7. Monterey     | 15. <b>Trinity</b> |
| 8. Napa         |                    |

Section 7 CFR 301.92-3 (a)(2) provides for the temporary designation of new quarantined areas pending publication of a rule to add counties to the list shown in 7 CFR 301.92-3(a)(3). Section 7 CFR 301.92-3 (a) (3) further requires written notification to the owner or person who possesses a newly quarantined area. This is the responsibility of the federal and/or state regulatory personnel responsible for the *P. ramorum* program in the affected state.

If you wish more details on the federal *P. ramorum* regulatory program, you may call *Phytophthora ramorum* National Policy Manager Prakash Hebbar at 301-851-2228 or National Operations Manager Stacy Scott 970-494-7577. For information on regulatory requirements to move articles out of *P. ramorum* quarantined areas in California, please contact APHIS State Plant Health Director Helene Wright at 916-930-5500.

We continue to appreciate the cooperative relationship with California in our effort to prevent the spread of *P. ramorum*.