

USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Potentially Actionable Suspect Sample Policy:
Phytophthora ramorum

Overview

A Potentially Actionable Suspect Sample (PASS) is a **regulatory sample** where preliminary diagnostics indicate a USDA regulatory pathogen is present and requires confirmation by the USDA APHIS PPQ S&T-Beltsville laboratory.

Samples Collected from a Non-Quarantine Area or Non-Regulated Establishment

Any **regulatory sample** collected from a non-quarantine area or non-regulated establishment that tests *P. ramorum* positive by a **NPPLAP accredited lab** using the APHIS approved Screening Work Instructions is considered a PASS and must be forwarded to the USDA APHIS PPQ S&T-Beltsville laboratory for final determination. Sample should consist of symptomatic plant material and DNA.

Sample Diagnostics

USDA-APHIS-PPQ-S&T Beltsville Laboratory
BARC-East, Bldg. 580
Powder Mill Road
Beltsville, MD 20705
Phone: (301) 313-9271

When forwarding materials notify the lab at: APHIS-PPQCPHSTBeltsvilleSampleDiagnostics@usda.gov. You must include number of samples and tracking information in this communication. Do not ship samples on Fridays or the day before a federal holiday.

Samples Collected from a Quarantined Area or Regulated Establishment

A **regulatory sample** collected in a **quarantined area or regulated establishment** that tests *P. ramorum* positive in a **NPPLAP accredited lab** using the APHIS approved Screening Work Instructions is considered a PASS and must be forwarded to the USDA APHIS PPQ S&T-Beltsville laboratory for final determination under the following conditions:

- The sample is an unusual detection (novel symptoms or new host).

A NPPLAP certified analyst at a **NPPLAP accredited laboratory** has the authority to make the final determination on a regulatory sample collected from a regulated area or establishment (previously confirmed positive by APHIS PPQ S&T) if:

- The laboratory notifies both the APHIS National Policy and National Operations Managers of the positive within 24 hours of the diagnostic result.
- APHIS and the state are in concurrence on the list of previously positive regulated areas or establishment within the state.

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Definitions

NPPLAP Accredited Lab: A laboratory recognized by APHIS through the National Plant Protection Laboratory Accreditation Program as possessing all the necessary equipment and certified personnel to perform *P. ramorum* screening tests using the current APHIS work instructions.

Quarantine Area: Any area where *P. ramorum* has been found and officially confirmed in the natural environment.

Regulated Establishment: Any APHIS recognized area or establishment where *P. ramorum* has been federally confirmed.

Regulatory Sample: This is a sample of regulatory concern to APHIS for *P. ramorum* collected by regulatory officials.