

National Quality Assurance Program Review

Phytophthora ramorum



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USDA, APHIS, PPQ
Quality Assurance Review Team



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Quality Assurance Program Review

- Examine federal regulatory, state and multi-state domestic programs.
- Holistic in nature and examine the management and execution of regulatory processes to include the following components:

Quality Assurance Program Review

- Operations- consistency with national guidelines, regulations, and procedures
- Resource utilization, funding, staffing, procurement, and logistics
- Program planning and development and delivery
- Methods, tools, technology, and research needs
- Collaboration and coordination with state counterparts

Quality Assurance Program Review

- Communication, outreach, manuals, training, and public meetings
- Information and data management; reporting
- Environmental compliance issues
- Regulatory authorities/framework
- Program results, effectiveness, and measurements
- Challenges; emerging critical issues
- Risk; program analysis

P. ramorum Quality Assurance Review

Background:

- Review was conducted at the direction of National Plant Board and PPQ Executive Team
- Review goal was to evaluate business practices for strengths and weaknesses, and identify areas in need of improvement

Background:

- Review team members were selected based on their knowledge of *P. ramorum* and the program, but did not have a direct stake in the results of the review

Background:

- Site Visits to California, Connecticut, North Carolina, Oregon and Washington
- Focus Group Discussions at Southern Plant Board Meeting and California Oak Mortality Task Force Symposium
- Interview/Surveys with State, Federal Program Officials and Laboratory personnel

Background:

- Team reviewed all the information and identified common issues and concerns as well as program practices that work well
- The final report provides a comprehensive evaluation of the *P. ramorum* program based on information derived from a cross section of industry, state, federal, and county representatives from across the country

Findings and Recommendations:

- Redesign national program goals to unify stakeholders towards a common purpose (p. 5)
- Develop a general purpose statement that describes a strategy for reaching the stated goals (p. 5)
- Develop a program strategy to meet program goals and address identified program weaknesses (p. 6)

Findings and Recommendations:

- Develop an enhanced standard certification program to be available to states and counties in the regulated area. Enhanced certification goes beyond current nursery stock certification inspections; it involves production practices which are audited (p. 6)

Findings and Recommendations:

- Consider adopting the best available BMPs with a broad systems approach as the standard for phytosanitary certification in the regulated areas. These BMPs should be tied to all future outreach efforts and should be made mandatory as a prerequisite in the regulated areas (p. 7)

Findings and Recommendations:

- Investigate the feasibility of a compensation component to enhance program cooperation and provide incentives to report potential problems (p. 7)
- Utilize national program measures that focus on revised program goals and outcomes (p.8)

Findings and Recommendations:

- Protocols need to be reviewed and revised by the National Program Manager to be more clear and concise with state input (p. 9)
- Protocols need to be routinely reviewed and validated for applicability (p.9)

Findings and Recommendations:

- Recommend that CPHST evaluate whether Q37 needs to be revised to include Rhododendrons, Pieris, Viburnum, Camellia, and Kalmia for post entry quarantine (p. 9)
- Develop disease indexing and other testing protocols that can be implemented to verify and assure propagative material entering the U.S. is disease free (p. 9)

Findings and Recommendations:

- Revisit the need to conduct another National CAPS Survey (p. 9)
- Conduct an analysis of trace work to determine how successful trace work is in finding positive nurseries and the results of any follow-up surveys (p. 10)

Findings and Recommendations:

- Investigate the feasibility of providing shipping information to states receiving host plant material from regulated areas (p. 10)
- Research the development of field diagnostic kits for quick screening and/or early *P. ramorum* detection (p. 10)

Findings and Recommendations:

- Evaluate the efficacy of the 40 sample minimum protocol to detect *P. ramorum* (p. 10)
- Recommend that the regulations be evaluated to include regulation of the *P. ramorum* pathogen in addition to the host material (disease) (p. 11)

Findings and Recommendations:

- Develop a process for moving a geographic area (state/county) from a regulated status to a non-regulated status. This process should be supported by current science (p. 11)
- There is a need to develop multiple efficacious soil treatment methods (p. 11)

Findings and Recommendations:

- Allow CPHST access to the website to make timely laboratory protocol updates (p. 12)
- Explore process improvements and other methods to expedite the *P. ramorum* proficiency testing to be less time consuming and resource intensive (p. 12)

Findings and Recommendations:

- Methods to detect *P. ramorum* in the soil need to be improved (p. 12)
- Continue to research the development of field diagnostic kits for quick screening and/or early *P. ramorum* detection (p. 13)

Findings and Recommendations:

- Review and research the relationship and/or distribution of the pathogen in water and soil and its potential to infect plant material in nurseries and the environment (p. 13)
- Areas needing research as identified in the report should be forwarded to a Technical Working Group or Technical Review Team for further consideration (p. 12-13)

Findings and Recommendations:

- Consider resurrecting the national conference call to include industry to discuss new rules and clarify protocols (p. 13)
- Investigate whether data collected is being used to the fullest extent possible to evaluate program progress towards established goals (p. 13)

Findings and Recommendations:

- Recommend including forest interests (i.e. in program discussions, working groups, rulemaking, etc.) in the process where appropriate (p. 14)
- Recommend including in the Cooperative Agreement Work Plans an outreach component that includes sharing validated BMPs with nursery establishments (p. 14)

Findings and Recommendations:

- Ensure the information on the APHIS PPQ website is current and meets the needs of internal and external customers (p. 14)
- Ensure tribal jurisdictions are included in program communications (p. 14)



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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Questions?

Thank You!