

## APHIS *Phytophthora ramorum* Program 2008 Year-end Summary

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/pram](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pram)

### Background:

The *P. ramorum* program has completed its 7<sup>th</sup> year as an APHIS regulatory program. The program started with regulations in 9 counties in California and part of one county in Oregon and focused on regulating the movement of risk articles such as wood, soil, foliage and nursery stock. The infested areas have grown to 14 California counties and a larger part of the one county in Oregon which has been under an aggressive survey and treatment program by Oregon since 2001.

The program received much scrutiny and policy revision in 2004 when a large production nursery was found to have shipped *P. ramorum* infected Camellia plants to many nurseries nationwide. As a result, in January 2005 regulation of nursery stock was extended to the entire states of California, Oregon, and Washington.

### Nursery Detections to Date

	# Nurseries	# States	Notes
2000 and prior	Zero		There were no reported nursery detections prior to 2001
2001	One	California	In infested area
2002	Zero		
2003	20	3 - CA, OR, WA	
2004	176	21	125 linked to one nursery's shipments
2005	99	7	
2006	62	11	
2007	23	6	
2008	28	8 - CA, OR, WA, TX, FL, MS, NC, SC	Details below under "Detections in 2008"

## Program Goals:

1. To mitigate the risk of *P. ramorum* being moved out of currently infested areas.
2. To stabilize and maintain markets for nursery stock taking the least restrictive actions.
3. To shrink regulation from the entire three states back to the infested areas.
4. To detect and eradicate *P. ramorum* in the nurseries in the three regulated states, eradicate and maintain nurseries in all states as free of *P. ramorum* with adoption of self inspection and best management practices by nurseries at risk.

## Detections in 2008:

In 2008 *P. ramorum* was detected in 31 sites: 28 nurseries and 3 landscape plantings. Also, Oregon identified an expansion of their Curry County infestation resulting in an increase in the area quarantined to about 162 square miles.

Here are details on the site detections:

**California** – 12 nurseries by regulatory inspections, state nursery inspections, and self reporting. Of these 12, one retail nursery was positive in 2007.

**Oregon** – 5 nurseries by regulatory inspections and one landscape planting found in a trace forward. Of these 5, one production nursery was positive in 2007.

**Washington** – 5 nurseries by regulatory inspection and state nursery inspection and one landscape planting found in a trace forward. Of these 5, one production nursery was positive in 2007.

**Texas** – 1 residential find from a trace forward.

**Florida** – 2 nurseries were positive of which one was also positive in 2007, found by follow-up inspection, and one was detected as positive through a link to the nursery that was positive in 2007.

**Mississippi** – 1 nursery that was also positive in 2007, found by follow-up inspection.

**North Carolina** – 1 nursery detected under the CAPS (Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey) program.

**South Carolina** – 2 nurseries, one by a link to the NC detection and the second by a sharp-eyed State inspector

**Operational: This includes protocols, Federal Orders, Regulations, Diagnostics, Web Updates, and New Hosts**

**Protocols:**

In 2008 we posted 8 new or revised protocols to our website:

- Nursery Survey Protocol
- Trace Back Protocol
- Presumptively Actionable Suspect Sample
- Soil Sampling and Analysis Protocol
- Trace Forward Protocol (new)
- Confirmed Nursery Protocol Appendix 11 was updated
- A new Elicitin Real Time PCR Protocol
- The Forest and Wildland Protocol had links and some Appendices updated

**Emergency Domestic Federal Quarantine Orders issued:**

- To add five new hosts and species name update:
  - SPRO (State Plant Regulatory Official) Letter with the Federal Domestic Quarantine Order and APHIS List of Regulated Proven Hosts and Associated Plants (3/5/08)
- To add two new hosts:
  - SPRO letter with the Federal Domestic Quarantine Order and APHIS List of Regulated Proven Hosts and Associated Plants (5/16/08)

**Regulations:**

A number of regulations are pending and in the process:

- **Final rule** of the February 2007 Interim Rule is in process
  - We had nine commenters and all have been addressed and some program-enhancing changes are being considered for publication of the final rule
- In process is a “performance based” rule that would allow the “APHIS List of Regulated Proven Hosts and Associated Plants” to be the official list of what species are regulated. Plants would only be listed if specific, established criteria were first met.
- In process is a Proposed Rule for the wood of bole hosts, compost, green waste, and mulch.

**Diagnostics:**

- A new Elicitin Real Time PCR process was validated and made programmatic in June.
- Companies continue their effort to develop a rapid and reliable field test specific to *P. ramorum*. No timetable for rollout is available at this time.

## Web Updates:

- Eight Protocols, seven revised and one new
- Two Emergency Domestic Federal Quarantine Orders
- “Background” was updated June 2008
- Resulting from a long collaboration with many stakeholders including APHIS, the American Nursery and Landscape Association released the “Nursery Industry Best Management Practices”. This is posted on the California Oak Mortality Task Force website and we added a link to it
- We added a link to the Oregon State University Extended Campus - ECampus *Phytophthora* Online Course, a key component of Oregon’s Grower Assisted Inspection Program (GAIP)

## New Hosts:

Ten new species have been added to date, four in the UK, five in Canada, and one in the US.

- **January** added two species: *Corylopsis spicata* and *Physocarpus opulifolius* (reported by Canada)
- **April** added five species of Magnolia: *Magnolia denudata x salicifolia*, *Magnolia liliifolia*, *Magnolia salicifolia*, *Magnolia thompsoniana*, (reported by United Kingdom), and *Magnolia kobus* (reported by Canada)
- **May** added two species *Cercis chinense* (reported by Canada) and *Magnolia figo* (detected in the United States)
- **September** added one new species *Cornus kousa* (reported by Canada) pending regulation upon publishing of the Final Rule
- **December (pending)**, we have four new species *pending confirmation* and additional information from the United Kingdom’s Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs.

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