



## **APHIS *Phytophthora ramorum* Program 2010, 2nd Quarter Summary**

### **Background and History:**

The APHIS-PPQ *P. ramorum* regulatory program initiated with the First Interim Rule February 14, 2002, is now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year. Currently 14 counties in California and 162 square miles in Curry County, Oregon are designated as quarantine areas for *P. ramorum* regulated articles. The remaining counties in California and Oregon, and the entire state of Washington are designated as regulated areas for inter-state shipment of nursery stock. The USDA *P. ramorum* quarantine program, in place since 2002, has been successful in limiting the pathogen's artificial spread into the environment beyond the currently quarantine areas. Of the nurseries that were surveyed nationwide in 2010 (January – June) through agreements with state department of agriculture, 5 nurseries and 1 greenhouse on the East Coast and 15 nurseries on the West Coast had positive detections. The *P. ramorum* program in consultation with stakeholders has funded and developed several survey and remediation protocols, outreach and training initiatives. These efforts have benefitted the nursery industry by assuring the commercial movement of disease-free plants.

### **Program Update:**

#### **Dialogue with Stakeholders/Meetings on *P. ramorum* program:**

- **On April 19-20:** USDA Forest Service /Forest Health Protection organized a meeting in Denver, CO, to develop a National Framework for Sudden Oak Death (SOD) in wildland forests. The objective of this framework is to mitigate effects of *P. ramorum* in wildlands and clarify roles and responsibilities of USDA-FS, APHIS-PPQ, Universities, State Forestry and State Agriculture Departments. A core group of program managers and experts representing the above organizations discussed status of *P. ramorum* in wildlands, resources, roles, early detection, containment and mitigation. A report will be available shortly.
- **On May 13,** as a follow-up of *P. ramorum* National Program Review action items APHIS-PPQ-EDP organized a national call to kick-start the *P. ramorum* Regulatory Working Group work. The objective of the working group made up of both State and Federal Regulatory Officials, is to provide the *P. ramorum* program, guidance on implementation of action items developed during the National Program Review in December 2009. The working group will address several regulatory issues such as high risk plants, Q37 host plant imports, critical control points for best management practices in nurseries, protocols, triggers for regulation and de-regulation, regulatory surveys and nursery assessment/field teams. The Working Group will be co-chaired by Gray Haun, State Plant

Regulatory Official (SPRO), TN representing the national Plant Board (NPB) and Prakash Hebbbar, PPQ National Program Manager, for *P. ramorum*. The sub-groups will have two co-chairs, one representing the NPB and the other APHIS-PPQ. APHIS-PPQ highly appreciates the participation and contribution of NPB and the State Regulatory officials. Details of the working group activities will be published on the *P. ramorum* website shortly.

APHIS, Center for Plant Health Science and Technology (CPHST) is consulting with several experts based in Universities, put together a Research Coordination Group consisting of Federal and state agencies, Universities, industry groups, and NGO's which will be charged with sharing information on ongoing *P. ramorum* research and recommending solutions. The Nursery Industry has initiated internal discussions on sustaining some of the initiatives on Best Management practices.

The above groups would replace the previous working groups and would focus on carrying out the recommendations from the December, 2009 National Program Review, as well as past recommendations.

- **On May 13:** The steering committee of the Continental Dialogue *P. ramorum* initiative met in Washington DC. The objective of the initiative is to work with private industry and public sector partners to encourage a collaborative, integrated effort to prevent the spread of *P. ramorum* to un-infested areas, and particularly to prevent its establishment in the wildlands. For more details on the initiative please visit <http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/>
- **On May 17,** Washington State University (WSU), Puyallup team led by Dr. Gary Chastagner along with APHIS PPQ in Washington State and National Program Managers visited several sites and nurseries that were positive for *P. ramorum* in the State. The visit was helpful to understand the situation on the ground and the efforts in place by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and APHIS PPQ to monitor and mitigate *P. ramorum* in both nurseries and water streams. Better low-cost environmentally-friendly treatment methods are needed to address the presence of *P. ramorum* in water run-off from the nurseries and the streams. Work will be initiated in 2010 at the Dominican University of California, National Ornamental Research Site on water treatment methods. WSU, Puyallup along with WSDA and Forestry Service are working jointly to address the *P. ramorum* finds.
- **On June 7,** APHIS *P. ramorum* team members from PPQ's Emergency and Domestic Programs (EDP), Western Region and CPHST met with Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) personnel to discuss and compare current *P. ramorum* regulations and protocols and continue the process of harmonization.
- **On June 9 and 11,** PPQ EDP, Western Region, CPHST and State Plant Health Directors attended the California Oak Mortality Task Force and Continental

Dialogue meetings and presented several aspects of the current APHIS *P. ramorum* program and participated in several discussion groups.

**Nursery Detections to date (2000 – 2010 June)**

	# 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	
2009	26	11	Also, 6 landscape detections in 4 states; Data 2009 , Dec 31st
2010 (Jan-Jun)	20	9	1 landscape detection, and 1 greenhouse detection

**Details of detections from January to June 2010:**

In 2010 from January to June, new detections of diseases caused by *P. ramorum* occurred in 9 states at 22 sites: 20 nurseries, 1 greenhouse and 1 in the landscape: **California** – 5 nurseries positive during annual (3) compliance, (1) incoming shipment and (1) trace back inspections.

**Oregon** – 6 nurseries positive during annual compliance inspections.

**Iowa** – 1 nursery positive during trace forward inspection

**Washington** – 3 nurseries positive, (2) during annual compliance, (1) nursery through trace forward inspection, and (1) landscape positive.

**Alabama** – 2 nurseries through nursery assessment inspections, initially determined positive in 2009.

**North Carolina** –1 nursery through follow up inspection.

**Pennsylvania** – 1 greenhouse detection.

**South Carolina** – 1 nursery as the result of an unrelated incoming nursery shipment inspection.

**Illinois** - 1 nursery positive during trace forward inspection

**Operational Items:**

**Protocols:** Up-dated Soil baiting protocol will be published on APHIS *P. ramorum* website shortly

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

### **Regulations: Federal Order**

- **Prenotification Federal Order implementation date delayed: On May 27,** APHIS issued a Federal Order regarding the advanced notification for interstate shipments of *P. ramorum* host plants. Effective June 21, APHIS will require persons moving nursery stock from quarantine or regulated areas interstate to provide written notification to the destination States. Advance notification is necessary to allow states receiving *P. ramorum* host nursery stock to assign and prioritize resources, assure rapid response, and provide direct traceability for any nursery stock (as defined under 7 CFR 301.92-2) known to be positive for *P. ramorum*. APHIS later extended from June 21, 2010 to July 19, 2010 the effective date for implementation of the Federal Order followed by issuing a SPRO dated July 12 delaying the effective date until further notice. This action will allow for the additional time needed to incorporate revisions to the Federal Order and establish necessary measures to support implementation. For details visit;
- [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/pram/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pram/index.shtml)

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