



APHIS *Phytophthora ramorum* Program 2010, 3rd 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 9th 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 – September) through agreements with state department of agriculture, 5 nurseries and 1 greenhouse on the East Coast and 21 nurseries and 2 residential landscape sites 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:

On July 29, an update on the Regulatory Working Group was presented at the National Plant Board meeting, in Indianapolis. The working groups shared with the participants highlights of their discussions and next steps. Discussions will be commencing shortly between the various sub-groups and with stakeholders for their input. Thus far, over 20 meetings/conference calls were held by the regulatory working sub-groups, which include high risk plants and critical control points for best management practices in nurseries, Q37, protocols, triggers for regulation, de-regulation, Nursery Survey and Nursery assessment/field team. The Regulatory Working Group is co-chaired by a NPB representative and a PPQ representative. The sub-groups have two co-chairs each, one representing the NPB and the other APHIS-PPQ and several state departments of agriculture and PPQ officials. The Co-chairs representing NPB are from TN, TX, CA, OR, MD, CT, WV, AL and representing APHIS-PPQ are from MD, CA, OR, FL, WA, PPQ-Western Region and PPQ-Eastern Region. In total, both PPQ and State Regulatory officials representing over 21 states have been participating in the discussions.

On August 4, APHIS-PPQ initialed a discussion with ANLA on organizing a Nursery Practices Group. The group will be co-chaired by industry representatives. The Nursery practices group will be tasked with facilitating better communication between the Industry and the Regulatory and the Research Coordination Group. A key action item

for the Industry that was highlighted during the December 09, *P. ramorum* National Program Review was to evaluate the effectiveness and cost-benefits of on-going Grower Assisted Inspection program in OR, US Nursery Clean Stock program and recently the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers (CANGC) sponsored preventive practices and systems approach workshops.

On August 17-18, PPQ Eastern and Western Regional Office, PPQ KS State and CPHST held a “*P. ramorum* Soil and Water Detection” workshop at Kansas State University, in Manhattan, Kansas.

The purpose of these workshops, which includes field and lab work, is to increase the ability of personnel working for state agriculture departments, USDA APHIS-PPQ, university extension and other industry professionals to detect *Phytophthora ramorum*. These workshops are aimed at states participating in the National *P. ramorum* Nursery Survey and that have identified the need for training. Subject matter experts providing instructions on *P. ramorum* are from CPHST and various State Agricultural Department and NPDN Laboratories.

The next workshop will be held in Richmond, Virginia from October 5-7, 2010 in cooperation with The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Plant Pathology Lab.

Upcoming events:

Regulatory Working Group Co-chairs meeting, Salem, OR, Oct 25-29.

As a follow-up of *P. ramorum* National Program Review action items APHIS-PPQ-EDP is organizing jointly with the National Plant Board (NPB), a Regulatory sub-group Co-chairs meeting in Salem, Oregon from October 25-29. The objective of the meeting between the co-chairs, made up of both State and Federal Regulatory Officials, is to harmonize working group recommendations, identifying the next steps, measures and timelines and thereby 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. APHIS-PPQ appreciates the contribution and efforts of NPB, State Regulatory officials and Oregon Department of Agriculture for hosting the meeting and providing the logistics.

Nursery Detections to date (2000 – 2010 June)

Y	# 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-Sept)	27	10	26 nurseries, and 1 greenhouse, 2 landscape detections.

Details of detections from January to June 2010:

In 2010 from January to September, new detections of diseases caused by *P. ramorum* occurred in 10 states at 29 sites: 26 nurseries, 1 greenhouse and 2 in the residential landscape. In total 15 are Inter-state shippers and 12 retail nurseries. Protocols to remove the source of the pathogen, and sampling and testing has been completed in majority of the nurseries. Subsequent plant and soil samples taken in the above nurseries were all negative for *P. ramorum*.

California – 7 nurseries positive during annual (5) compliance, (1) incoming shipment and (1) trace back inspections. 1 residential landscape. Confirmed Nursery Protocols or State Nursery Stock Cleanliness Program has been completed in positive nurseries. Of the seven nurseries, 5 are inter-state shippers and two are retail nurseries.

Oregon – 7 nurseries positive during annual compliance inspections. Confirmed Nursery Protocols has been completed in 5 positive nurseries and pending in the remaining 2. Of the seven nurseries, 5 are inter-state shippers and two are retail nurseries.

Iowa – 1 nursery positive during trace forward inspection. Confirmed Nursery Protocols has been completed and subsequent plant and soil samples were all negative for *P. ramorum*. Not an interstate shipper, retail nursery.

Washington – 6 nurseries positive, (5) during annual compliance, (1) nursery through trace forward inspection, and (1) landscape positive. Confirmed Nursery Protocols has been completed in 2 positive nurseries and on-going in the others. Of the six nurseries, 4 are inter-state shippers and two are retail nurseries.

Alabama – 1 nursery through nursery assessment inspections, initially determined positive in 2009. Confirmed Nursery Protocols has been completed. Not an interstate shipper, retail nursery.

North Carolina –1 nursery through follow up inspection. Nursery dealer, not inter-state shipper. Confirmed Nursery Protocols has been completed subsequent plant and soil samples were all negative for *P. ramorum*. Nursery removed under EAN (Emergency Notification) on 9/9/10

Pennsylvania – 1 greenhouse detection in seedling flats. Confirmed Nursery Protocols has been completed and subsequent plant and soil samples were all negative for *P. ramorum*. Confirmed Nursery Protocols has been completed and subsequent plant and soil samples were all negative for *P. ramorum*. An interstate shipper and retail nursery.

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

Illinois - 1 nursery positive during trace forward inspection. Not an interstate shipper, retail nursery. Subsequent plant and soil samples were all negative for *P. ramorum*. Not an interstate shipper, retail nursery

Virginia – 1 hoop house positive during routine nursery inspection. Subsequent plant and soil samples were all negative for *P. ramorum*. Not an interstate shipper, retail nursery

Operational Items:

Regulations: Federal Order

Advance Notification Federal Order implementation: a SPRO dated July 12 delayed the effective date for implementation of the Advance Notification Federal Order until further notice. This action was to obtain feed-back from stakeholders and also provide additional time to incorporate revisions to the Federal Order. Based on feed-back received, APHIS-PPQ is working on a guidance document that we hope would answer stakeholder concerns.

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