



## **APHIS *Phytophthora ramorum* Program 2010, 4th 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 – December) through agreements with state department of agriculture, 22 nurseries and 2 residential landscape sites **in the regulated states** (California, Oregon and Washington) and 11 nurseries and 1 greenhouse **in the non-regulated states (all other states)** had positive detections. **In spite of higher number of detections of *P. ramorum* in 2010, there were only 2 major trace events, one related to shipments from OR and one from PA.** 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. In addition, APHIS-PPQ has been working for the past one year with state regulatory officials, the National Plant Board leadership and the Nursery Industry to improve the current *P. ramorum* regulatory framework.

### **Program Update:**

**On October 5-7**, PPQ Eastern Regional Office in cooperation with The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Plant Pathology Laboratory, held a “*P. ramorum* Soil and Water Detection” workshop in Richmond, Virginia. The workshop included field and lab based components. Participants completed all aspects of soil and water baiting including; accessing a site, collecting composite samples, processing samples and examining prepared soil and water bait/filtration plates. The purpose of this training was to increase the ability of personnel working for state agriculture departments, USDA APHIS-PPQ, university extension and other industry professionals to detect *Phytophthora ramorum*. Subject matter experts providing instructions on *P. ramorum* were from PPQ-Molecular Diagnostics laboratory, CPHST, Washington State University, various State Agricultural Departments and NPDN Laboratories.

**On October 15, 2010** South Carolina's Clemson University, hosted an outreach nursery

and educational seminar. In attendance were 28 participants and 6 speakers/guests. Participants consisted of representatives from many of the local nurseries, Extension Service Specialists, and Clemson University, DPI personnel. The goals of this seminar were to engage stakeholders in an educational and consensus-building forum in an effort to foster collaboration and coordination to manage and reduce the threat of plant pests and diseases. The intent was to also motivate the public into taking steps to minimize the accidental introduction and/or spread of invasive plant pests and diseases. Personal testimonies were given by the owners of a wholesale nursery and a retail nursery spoke about the best management practices implemented at their businesses and the corresponding benefits.

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

As a follow-up of *P. ramorum* National Program Review action items APHIS-PPQ-EDP organized 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, was 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 addressed 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 also visited several nurseries currently under the GAIP (Grower Assisted Inspection Program) and US National Clean Plant Network programs. 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. The working group report is currently being reviewed by the stakeholder “Continental Dialogue” initiative and the report will be published by March 2011.

**Nov, 2010:** *P. ramorum* PPQ Regional Program Managers Stacy Scott (Western Regional Office) and Anthony Man-Son-Hing (Eastern Regional Office) are visiting PPQ, Riverdale to assist the national program with compiling working group reports and discuss plans for 2011 covering items such as budgets, farm bill initiatives, outreach and communications. The regional program Managers also visited CPHST and Molecular Diagnostics Lab in Beltsville to learn firsthand the process involved in diagnostics and reporting.

**On November 17,** PPQ’s Centers for Plant Health Science and Technology (CPHST) reported that since 2006, a total of 58 individuals participated in the *P. ramorum* Panel Tests. As a result, the success rate improved from 68 percent in 2006 to 86 percent in 2010, with 16 labs currently certified. The panel test conforms to the Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks (ICLN) standards criteria, which requires annual certification.

### Nursery Detections to date (2000 – 2010 December)

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	34	13	33 nurseries, and 1 greenhouse, 2 landscape detections.

#### Details of detections from January to December 2010:

As of December 31, 2010, the number of positive nurseries are as follows: CA (7); OR (9); WA (6); IA (1-Trace Forward); IL (1-Trace Forward); AL (1); NC (1); SC (1); VA (1-hoop house leaf debris); NY (1-Collection Pond), MS (3); GA (1-irrigation pond); PA (1-greenhouse seeding flats). By plant genera; *Rhododendron/Azalea* (41); *Camellia* (18); *Viburnum* (7); *Pieris* (6); *Kalmia* (2); Other species (12) included: *Laurus nobilis* (3), *Loropetalum chinensis* (1), *Magnolia* (2); *Tracheolosperrum jasminoides* (2), *Osmanthus fragrans* (1); *Mahonia nervosa* (1), *Sequoia sempervirens* (1), *Veronica spicata* (1). There were two positive residential landscape detections and 1 water pond positive. In total 18 are Inter-state shippers and 13 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*.

#### Regulated States:

**California** – 7 positive nursery detections 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. 3 of the nurseries were never positive previously.

**Oregon** – 9 positive nursery detections during annual compliance and fall inspections. Confirmed Nursery Protocols has been completed in all positive nurseries. Of the 9 nurseries, 7 are inter-state shippers and two are retail nurseries. 5 of the nurseries were never positive previously.

**Washington** – 6 positive nursery detections, (5) during annual compliance, (1) nursery through trace forward inspection, and (1) landscape positive. Confirmed Nursery Protocols has been completed in all the nurseries. Of the six nurseries, 4 are inter-state shippers and two are retail nurseries. All 6 nurseries were positive previously.

**Non-regulated States:**

**Iowa** – 1 positive nursery detection 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.

**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

**New York** – 1 positive nursery detected during water-baiting of collection pond (not used for irrigation) as a part of the National Survey. Nursery was not previously positive. Nursery is a whole-sale and an inter-state shipper.

**Mississippi:** 3 positive retail nurseries detected during National Survey. All three nurseries were not previously positive. Nurseries are currently under an EAN. Positive plants traced back to three interstate shippers based in LA, AL and TX. Plant tissue samples collected from the inter-state shippers in AL, LA and TX were all negative for *P. ramorum*.

**Georgia:** 1 positive wholesale and inter-state shipping nursery, *P. ramorum* detected in irrigation pond by water-baiting, during national survey. Pond water used for irrigation is treated (chlorinated). Nursery has not been previously positive.

**Dated: January 5, 2011**, Prakash K. Hebbar *Phytophthora ramorum* National Program Manager, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, APHIS Headquarters, Riverdale, Maryland 301.734.5717

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