



APHIS *Phytophthora ramorum* Program 2012, 1st 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 10th year. Currently 14 counties in California and 202 square miles in Curry County, in 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. **Presence of *P. ramorum* in the environment has not caused large-scale disease outbreaks in the forest landscape outside the currently quarantined areas in CA and OR.** 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. 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. **Between, January 1st to March 31st, 2012 *P. ramorum* was reported from two nurseries, one interstate shippers and one retail establishment.**

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.

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pram/downloads/pdf_files/PramFrameworkConceptPaper.pdf

Under the revised framework proposed, interstate shipping establishments will be regulated wherever it occurs not only when diseased host plants are found, but also when the *P. ramorum* pathogen is detected in soil, water, or other articles. This would require establishments that are confirmed for the presence of *P. ramorum* to be under compliance and complete a Critical Control Point (CCP) assessment. Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP) will be required to be address any shortfalls identified in the CCP before interstate movement of host material can occur. This approach will further reduce risk by shifting program emphasis more towards mitigating the risk within the entire domestic nursery production system rather than in just the three currently regulated states of California, Oregon and Washington. This proposed shift would not affect the current quarantine regulations that are in place in 14 counties in California and a portion of the Curry County in Oregon where the disease (SOD) is evident in the environment.

Program Updates:

Workshops and Meetings: New York *P. ramorum* water baiting workshop

On March 29, 2012, the Eastern Region sponsored a training workshop on water-baiting techniques for *P. ramorum*. This workshop was held at Cornell University Horticultural Research and Extension Center, Riverhead, New York. It was a collaborated effort between New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Forest Service, and Cornell University. The

presenters discussed the history, biology, and laboratory aspects of the *P. ramorum* disease. Additionally, there were discussions and illustrations of the protocols for the visual inspection of host material.

Regulatory: Advance Notification Federal Order Review and stakeholder feedback:

APHIS-PPQ had indicated that after the fall 2011 shipping season, PPQ-Emergency and Domestic Programs in consultation with stakeholders, will conduct a thorough review to measure the success of the Advance Notification Federal Orders (DA-2011-04 dated Jan 28th, 2011 and DA-2011-10 dated Feb 25th 2011) requiring interstate shipping nurseries moving certain *Phytophthora ramorum* host nursery stock from all quarantined counties in California and Oregon, and several regulated counties in California, Oregon, and Washington. Based on the results of the review, APHIS will then determine if any changes to the advance notification requirement are warranted.

On February 29, two review questionnaires (0579-0377 Form #3 and #4) approved by OMB (Office of Budget and Management) were sent to state regulatory agencies, nursery industry associations and individual nurseries to solicit feedback on the advance notification requirement. APHIS needed this input to evaluate whether the Federal Order had accomplished its stated goals which was allowing 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* and at the same time minimize the impact on nurseries shipping host plants inter-state. Approximately 115 stakeholders responded to the review questionnaire. This included 19 from State Regulatory Agencies, and 96 individual nurseries. In addition, comments on the FO were also received from 2 Regional Plant Board and 1 industry association. PPQ is in the process of reviewing the responses received and deciding on the next steps.

Nursery Detections to date (2000 – March, 2012)

Year	# 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.
2011 Jan-Dec	23	5	23 nursery detections, 1 residential, 1 landscape
2012 Jan-Mar	2	1	2 nursery detections in WA state

Details of detections from January to March 31, 2012:

Between, January 1st to March 31, 2012 *P. ramorum* has been reported from 1 inter-state shipping and 1 retail nursery in Washington State. As the nurseries had not shipped inter-state, no trace forward investigation resulted.

***P. ramorum* was detected on the following plant species:**

Rhododendron ‘Bruce Brechtbill’, [2 samples] collected on 3/19/12; confirmed on 3/30/12

Viburnum tinus ‘Spirit’, sample collected on 3/14/2012; confirmed on 3/30/12

Positive Detections vs. Plant Species Jan – Mar 31, 2012

Plant Species/Variety	State	County	Status	Date Confirmed
<i>Rhododendron</i> ‘Bruce Brechtbill’	WA	Thurston	Regulated	3/30/12
<i>Viburnum tinus</i> ‘Spirit’	WA	Pierce	Regulated	3/30/12

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