

***Phytophthora ramorum***  
**Activities Update**



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE  
INTERIOR PEST EXCLUSION**

**April 2026-NURSERY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**



# THIS PRESENTATION INCLUDES:

- 🍃 Hold Protocol Clarification
- 🍃 Trace Forward Protocol
- 🍃 2026 Positive Nurseries
- 🍃 Resources

# *Phytophthora ramorum* has been detected in 16 California counties

- Alameda
- Contra Costa
- Del Norte (2022)
- Humboldt
- Lake
- Marin
- Mendocino
- Monterey
- Napa
- San Francisco
- San Mateo
- Santa Clara
- Santa Cruz
- Solano
- Sonoma
- Trinity

# Quarantined Counties



# Hold Protocol Clarification

- The designated official will notify the confirmed-positive nursery of the confirmed-positive and instruct the nursery to place a ***hold on all regulated plants*** at the nursery or as many plants as deemed necessary by the inspector. All regulated plants in the nursery should be held until they are cleared by inspection.
- **Hold may include “any other product or article that an inspector determines to present a risk of spreading *P. ramorum*, if an inspector notifies the person in possession of the product or article that it is subject to the restrictions in the regulations” (7 CFR part 301.92-2) within the infested nursery site.**
- During delimiting survey ***inspect all regulated and nonregulated plants*** within the nursery.

# Trace Forward Protocol



The positive nursery is required to provide trace records to county or state officials within five business days.



Trace records are sent to the USDA *P. ramorum* National Operations Manager within five business days of *P. ramorum* detection.



Trace records are distributed to county agricultural offices for inspections at locations that have received suspect plant material from the positive nursery within the last six months.



Inspect any suspect plants from the positive genera and all other high-risk genera: *Camellia* spp., *Kalmia* spp., *Pieris* spp., *Rhododendron* spp. (including azalea), and *Viburnum* spp. regardless of their location in the nursery.



Symptomatic plants are sampled and held, plus regulated plants in the 2 meters surrounding sampled plant, pending laboratory results. Use the Trace Forward Protocol in the [Phytophthora ramorum Domestic Regulatory Program Manual](#).

Chronology of *Phytophthora ramorum* Positive Nurseries in California

Year	Non-Quarantine County		Quarantine County		Total
	Production Nursery	Retail Nursery	Production Nursery	Retail Nursery	
2026	1		3		4
2025	1		4	3	8
2024			4	2	6
2023		1	5	1	7
2022					0
2021	1		2		3
2020	2		3		5
2019	2	3	7	5	15
2018	2	3	2	4	11
2017	1	3	5	7	16
2016	1			1	2
2015					0
2014	1				1
2013			1		1

# 2026 *Phytophthora ramorum* Positive Nurseries

- ✦ Four positive nurseries so far in 2026
- ✦ Trace inspections from positive nurseries in 2026 resulted in a positive residence and production nursery
- ✦ 3,967 *P. ramorum* samples processed year to date by the CDFA Plant Pest Diagnostics Center with 31 positive samples
- ✦ *Camellia*, *Loropetalum*, *Michelia*, *Pieris*, and *Rhododendron* species were positive this year
- ✦ One out of state trace back inspection from Oregon was negative

# Nursery Best Management Practices Resources

[National Ornamental Research Site at Dominican University and CDFA Best Management Practices Manual](#)

[Safe Procurement and Production Manual: A Systems Approach for the Production of Healthy Nursery Stock \(Oregon Department of Agriculture\)](#)

[UC Davis Best Management Practices for \*Phytophthora ramorum\*](#)

[Phytophthora Online Course: Training for Nursery Growers \(Oregon State University\)](#)

[Accreditation to Improve Restoration \(AIR\) Nursery Program \(UC Davis\)](#)

## *Phytophthora ramorum* Resources



California Department of Food & Agriculture

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pe/InteriorExclusion/SuddenOakDeath/>



USDA/APHIS/PPQ

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/pramorum>

USDA *Phytophthora ramorum* Domestic Regulatory Program Manual

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/manuals/domestic/downloads/p-ramorum.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/domestic/downloads/p-ramorum.pdf)

California Oak Mortality Task Force



<http://www.suddenoakdeath.org>



**CDFA *Phytophthora ramorum* Activities Update**

**Thank You!**

Please send questions or comments about this presentation or the CDFA cooperative *Phytophthora ramorum* program to Carolyn Lambert at:

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