

Sudden Oak Death: An Important Issue for Our State

- An emerging disease in parts of California, southwestern Oregon, and European forests and urban landscapes.
- Found in 33 Washington nurseries since the summer of 2003.
- Attacks over 100 hosts including rhododendron, big leaf maple, madrone, grand fir, Douglas fir, and Pacific yew.
- A serious threat to our state's horticulture and forestry industries.
- Potential threat to our state's forest ecosystems.

Washington State University's Sudden Oak Death Program

- *Protecting our natural resources and helping industry respond through research, education, and monitoring*

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Washington State University's Sudden Oak Death Program



Research



Monitoring



Education



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What is Sudden Oak Death?

- Sudden Oak Death is the common name for a disease caused by *Phytophthora ramorum*, a previously unknown and exotic plant pathogen.
- *P. ramorum* is currently only known to occur in 14 counties in California, a small area in southwestern Oregon and several European countries.
- *P. ramorum* has killed hundreds of thousands of oak and tanoak trees in California.
- This pathogen can infect a large number of plants, including Douglas-fir, grand fir, rhododendron, viburnum, big leaf maple, vine maple, madrone, Pacific yew, salal, and other tree, shrub, and herbaceous plant species in Washington's natural and urban landscapes.
- *P. ramorum* spreads aurally through forest landscapes by wind and wind-driven rain. It survives in infested plant material, litter, soil, and water and can be moved long distances in nursery stock.

Does Sudden Oak Death pose a threat to Washington?

Western Washington is a "high risk" area for diseases caused by *P. ramorum* because of favorable environmental conditions and the abundance of susceptible host plants.



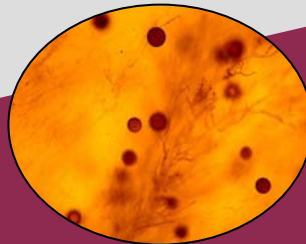
P. ramorum has been detected in 33 western Washington nursery sites since the summer of 2003, but eradication efforts appear to have prevented its spread to plants in Washington's forest and urban landscapes.

The recent detection of *P. ramorum* in a stream associated with an infested nursery illustrates the potential for this organism to spread from nurseries into Washington's natural and urban landscape.

While the ecological impacts of *P. ramorum* in Washington are unknown, the spread of this pathogen to plants in our forest or urban landscapes would trigger a series of quarantines in Washington's horticulture and forestry products. The destruction of infected plant material in nurseries to eradicate *P. ramorum* and prevent its further spread has already caused millions of dollars in losses to the nursery industry in California, Washington, and Oregon.

WSU Sudden Oak Death Research

In response to industry concerns, WSU built a new, quarter million dollar biocontainment facility at Puyallup. This facility will greatly increase the capacity of WSU to address critical research questions relating to the establishment, host susceptibility, spread and management of *P. ramorum*.



A new molecular lab is also being developed to enhance research relating to the detection, spread, and genetics of this pathogen.

WSU Sudden Oak Death Education

With funding provided by the USDA Forest Service and National Plant Diagnostic Network, WSU has developed a *P. ramorum* education program based at WSU Puyallup, which develops educational material and presents first detector workshops and research seminars relating to *P. ramorum* throughout Washington.

First detector workshops train natural resource and horticultural professionals how to recognize symptoms potentially caused by *P. ramorum* in the urban and natural landscape and how to submit samples for early detection.

Early detection is key in reducing the risk of widespread outbreaks and protecting Washington's nursery, landscape, and forest industries from the potentially devastating effects of a *P. ramorum* outbreak.



Partners: IR-4 Program, National Plant Diagnostic Network, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association, Puget Sound Christmas Tree Association, USDA Forest Service, WA State Commission on Pesticide Registration, Washington Forest Protection Association, Washington State Bulb Commission, Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association, WSDA Nursery Research Program