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2005 Annual Meeting
Biloxi, Mississippi

RESOLUTION NO. 6

Phytophthora ramorum (Sudden Oak Death)

Phytophthora ramorum, the casual agent of the disease commonly called sudden oak death, ramorum blight and ramorum dieback, has been killing trees and other hosts in the coastal counties of California since the mid 1990's. *P. ramorum* causes fatal bark cankers in tanoak, coast live oak, and California black oak. It can also cause leaf blight on species of camellia, rhododendron, and California bay laurel, and can spread rapidly in an area to many different hosts. Since the full host range for this disease has not yet been delineated, regulatory safeguards are needed for the interstate and international movement of plant material, in order to eliminate or minimize the potential for spread of this pathogen. It is fully anticipated this disease has the potential to be established throughout the United States, with primary concern for the Eastern and Southern forests, where it is expected to adversely impact the ecosystem balance and economy of affected areas. In addition to forest concerns, foreign and domestic nursery stock and lumber markets are of prime concern. Based on the present USDA, APHIS, PPQ list of hosts and plants associated with *P. ramorum*, there are 68 proven hosts and associated hosts, with additional species being identified regularly.

The interstate and international movement of infected plants continues to be a major pathway for the movement of *P. ramorum* to uninfested areas in the United States. Detected infestations must be eradicated in order to protect the U.S. nursery and forestry products industries and ecosystems from this disease. The public would be greatly affected by the loss of shade trees and ornamental plants in natural areas as well as landscapes affected by this pathogen.

Based on these potential pathways, an interim rule was published by USDA-APHIS-PPQ on February 14, 2002 to prevent the spread of sudden oak death from twelve infested counties in California and from an area under eradication in Oregon. An Emergency Federal Order dated December 21, 2004 was issued to regulate certain nurseries and plants to prevent the pathogen's spread via nursery plant movement. This order addresses the discovery of *P. ramorum* in nurseries in California, Oregon, and Washington that are outside the quarantined areas. Provisions were also included for nurseries in regulated areas that were not covered by the previous regulations which now require inspection and certification of freedom from *Phytophthora ramorum.*

There is concern that there are plants within the nursery trade that have been repeatedly implicated in the detection of *P. ramorum* in interstate plant movement from known infested west coast states. Additional comprehensive regulatory measures may be needed on these genera/species.

Be it resolved, that the National Plant Board, at its annual meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi on August 10th, 2005 urges the Secretary of Agriculture to ensure adequate funding is available for USDA- APHIS-PPQ to implement the national survey for *P. ramorum* and to conduct critical follow-up activities including trace forwards, testing, the development of new test methodologies, destruction of infected plants and eradication of *P. ramorum.*

Be it further resolved, The National Plant Board, as a cooperating partner in the program, has endorsed the formation of the *Phytophthora ramorum* NPB/PPQ working group. The National Plant Board strongly urges that the USDA-APHIS-PPQ work aggressively and cooperatively with this group to frame, clarify and track critical policy, scientific, and technical issues relating to the movement of high-risk nursery stock in interstate trade. This cooperative partnership is needed to ensure federal quarantine measures are based on sound science and in accordance with the NPB Principles of Plant Quarantine.

Be it further resolved, that the National Plant Board urges its member states to follow established USDA-APHIS-PPQ standard sampling and laboratory protocols and that USDA APHIS PPQ fast track approval of laboratories capable of completing *P. ramorum* testing.

Be it further resolved, that the National Plant Board urges USDA-APHIS-PPQ to complete and implement a *P. ramorum* introduction risk assessment for plant propagative material entering the U.S. for both the A1 and A2 mating types.

Motion to Adopt: Craig Roussel, LA
Seconded by: Mike Cooper, ID

Distribution:
Mike Johanns, Secretary, USDA
Bill Hawks, Under Secretary, USDA
Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Rick Kirchhoff, CEO, NASDA
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Craig Regelbrugge, Senior Director of Government Relations, ANLA
National Plant Board, President
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