

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2007-05
February 27, 2007

SUBJECT: *Phytophthora ramorum* Interim Rule

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The purpose of this SPRO memorandum is to provide notification that APHIS has published an Interim Rule in the *Federal Register* codifying the *P. ramorum* Emergency Federal Order, which went into effect on January 10, 2005.

On February 27, 2007, APHIS published an Interim Rule in the *Federal Register*, effective upon publication, amending the *P. ramorum* domestic quarantine. This Interim Rule strengthens the ability of the *P. ramorum* program to detect, contain, and eradicate this destructive plant disease by codifying several new provisions. The Interim Rule enhances sampling requirements for *P. ramorum* symptomatic plants. It updates the APHIS list of regulated hosts and plants associated with *P. ramorum*, as well as quarantined areas where natural infestations of *P. ramorum* occur. It also expands the definition of restricted articles to include *P. ramorum*-host bark chips, mulch, and forest stock located or grown in quarantined areas. Furthermore, the Interim Rule expands the definition of regulated articles to include various *P. ramorum*-host nursery stock, including decorative trees without roots, unprocessed wood and wood products (i.e., firewood, logs, and lumber), and plant products (i.e., wreaths, garlands, and greenery).

A link to a copy of the Interim Rule is available on APHIS' *P. ramorum* Web site. The address is http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/phytophthora_ram/index.shtml. APHIS will be accepting comments on the Interim Rule during the associated public comment period, which closes on April 30, 2007. Comments can be submitted or viewed electronically by going to www.epa.gov/feddoCKET. Once you have reached this page, click on the "View Open APHIS Dockets" link to locate this docket.

If you wish more details about the *P. ramorum* Federal regulatory program, you may contact the National *Phytophthora ramorum* Program Manager, Jonathan Jones at (301) 734-5038.

/s/ Richard L. Dunkle

Richard L. Dunkle
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine