

SOUTHERN PLANT BOARD

April 4-7, 2004

Williamsburg, Virginia

RESOLUTION # 2

Phytophthora ramorum (Sudden Oak Death)

1. *Phytophthora ramorum* is the casual agent of the disease commonly called sudden oak death, ramorum blight and ramorum die-back of certain trees, shrubs and plants. *P. ramorum* causes fatal bark cankers in California tan-oak, California live oak, and several other native California oaks. *P. ramorum* can also cause leaf blights on species of Camellia, Rhododendron and California bay, spreading rapidly in an area from plant to plant. There are 59 known hosts and associated hosts. Research is needed to identify new hosts. The host range has not yet been fully identified and therefore some regulatory safeguards are needed on all interstate/international movement of plant material. This disease has the potential to be introduced to Eastern and Southern forests adversely impacting the ecosystem balance and foreign and domestic nursery stock and lumber markets.
2. Between March 7 and March 14, 2004, *P. ramorum* was detected in 2 California nurseries well outside the quarantine area. Confirmatory tests are underway by USDA APHIS PPQ. These detections were unexpected and potentially serious. Florida, Oregon, Washington and Georgia and possibly several other states have confirmed positives from movement of infected stock from these nurseries in California. In addition, *P. ramorum* has been detected in Europe, including at least 600 nurseries in Great Britain.
3. The interstate movement of infected plant products is a major pathway for the movement of *Phytophthora ramorum* to uninfected areas in the United States. Based on information provided since March 8th, infected nursery stock has been moved from California to other areas in the US. It is essential that an effective, comprehensive national survey be implemented as soon as possible to determine if this disease has been spread to other areas. Detected infestations must be eradicated in order to protect the US nursery and forestry products industries and our ecosystems from this disease. The public would be affected by the loss of natural areas, by loss of shade trees and ornamental plants.

RESOLVED: by the membership of the Southern Plant Board at its annual meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia on April 7, 2004, that immediate action be taken by the Secretary of Agriculture to provide the necessary authorities and funding to USDA APHIS PPQ to implement a program of trace forwards, testing, destruction of infected plants and eradication or control of *P. ramorum*. In addition the Southern Plant Board strongly urges the USDA APHIS PPQ to institute federal quarantine measures that are founded on sound science and in accordance with the NPB Principles of Plant Quarantine. Since southern states are considered to be at high risk for SOD, states should be afforded the option to take actions to protect their interests if adequate and timely protection is not provided by the federal quarantine.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: by the Southern Plant Board that established USDA APHIS PPQ standard sampling and laboratory protocols must be adhered to by all states. Additionally, a SOD introduction risk assessment needs to be conducted/implemented for plant propagative material entering the US.

Motion to Adopt: Shashank Nilakhe
Seconded by: Gray Haun

DISTRIBUTION:

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