

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION  
DA-2006-05  
February 10, 2005

SUBJECT: *Phytophthora ramorum* (ramorum blight & dieback, sudden oak death); Listing and Regulation of Plants Recently Reported with *P. ramorum*

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On February 14, 2002, APHIS published an interim rule in the Federal Register for *P. ramorum* (7 CFR 301.92). This rule regulates the interstate movement of restricted and regulated articles to prevent the artificial spread of this disease-causing organism from areas where the disease is established. We also issued an Emergency Federal Order dated December 21, 2004, to regulate certain nurseries and plants to prevent the spread of the pathogen through nursery plants.

The purpose of this SPRO is to provide notification that APHIS will be regulating certain new species, effective February 20, 2006. This action is necessary as we have learned that:

- Certain additional plant taxa can be infected by *P. ramorum* and need to be regulated in order to control the artificial spread of this disease.
- Koch's postulates have been completed on three species so we have moved those from the list of "plants associated with *Phytophthora ramorum*" to the list of "proven regulated hosts".
- And we have refined some of the nomenclature to stay current and correct and to clearly communicate our intent of what plants we regulate.

Finally, an important note for the record; Canada detected a naturally infected Rhododendron sp. which has the characteristics commonly applied to azaleas. Though we have regulated all Rhododendron species since 2002, this is the first documented incident of naturally infected "azalea".

Attached is the "[Federal Domestic Quarantine Order](#)" which identifies those plants to be added to those regulated for *P. ramorum* in the Emergency Federal Order dated December 21, 2004, and the "[APHIS List of Regulated Hosts and Plants Associated with \*Phytophthora ramorum\*](#)".

/s/ Paul R. Eggert for

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