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 March 31, 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.

There are two attachments to this SPRO: “Federal Domestic Quarantine Order” which identifies plants to be added to those regulated for P. ramorum in the Emergency Federal Order dated December 21, 2004, and the updated “APHIS List of Regulated Hosts and Plants Associated with Phytophthora ramorum”.

/s/ John Payne

Richard L. Dunkle
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine