

Surveying for *Phytophthora ramorum* in Ornamental Nurseries, Home Landscapes, and Forests in Georgia, USA¹

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Abstract

Six ornamental production nurseries in Georgia were surveyed for *Phytophthora ramorum* in 2003. No *P. ramorum* was detected in 946 plant samples (508 nursery and 438 nursery perimeter/forest). Other *Phytophthora* species, mostly *P. cinnamomi* and *P. parasitica*, were recovered from *Rhododendron* and *Pieris* leaves from 50 nursery and 2 perimeter samples. Trace forward surveys in 2004 identified 14 retail nurseries that received *P. ramorum*-infected camellia plants from Monrovia Nurseries, Azusa, California. Adjacent plants, as well as the forested nursery perimeters were surveyed, and *P. ramorum* was not detected. From January 2003 to March 2004, Georgia received *ca.* 28,000 plants from Monrovia Nurseries in Azusa. A collaborative effort to recover purchased suspect *P. ramorum*-infected plants was initiated by the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Georgia Forestry Commission, and The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service. Three *Camellia* samples were confirmed positive out of 221 home landscape samples. All known infected plants were removed, and *P. ramorum* was not detected in a survey of landscape plants, soils, or forested environ away from the infected plant. *P. ramorum* was introduced into Georgia. However, there is no evidence that *P. ramorum* has spread or become established within retail nurseries.

Key words: sudden oak death, landscape, nursery, survey, establishment

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