

***Phytophthora ramorum* Regulatory Program: Present, Past, and Future Direction¹**

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Abstract

Since the publication of the *Phytophthora ramorum* interim rule in 2007, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (APHIS PPQ) has explored several avenues to obtain consensus on the objectives of the regulatory program and meet its goals. The principal objective of the program is to protect native biodiversity and wildland environments from sudden oak death (SOD). For the past several years, input from stakeholders, better scientific knowledge, and novel detection methods have helped APHIS, in collaboration with their partners, to develop and implement several scientifically-based protocols and remediation strategies that have reduced the risk of the pathogen being moved through shipments of infested nursery stock. Despite the progress made, *P. ramorum* continues to be moved around and has subsequently established itself in a number of retail and wholesale nurseries in several non-regulated states and, through these nurseries, into streams and waterways. Based on 10 years (2001 through 2010) of regulatory data, enhanced understanding of the science, and current realities, the general consensus is that a more targeted and focused regulatory framework is needed to reduce the potential for pathogen movement in nursery stock in order to protect valuable forest resources and the nursery industry. In addition to survey and detection within nurseries, it is imperative that best management practices (BMPs) be implemented to avoid the introduction and/or re-occurrence of *P. ramorum* within the nursery production system. The agency (APHIS) is currently investing in several pilot programs to test and improve implementation of BMPs in nurseries. This presentation describes several aspects of a revised regulatory framework being currently discussed and how it can be related to the implementation of BMPs and critical control point (CCP) assessment for regulated nurseries.

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