

Phytophthora ramorum

What Every Georgia Nursery Should Know

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Who Does P. ramorum Affect?

- ◆ Any Business that Imports or Exports Plant Material
- ◆ Any Business that Purchases Plants for re-sale (retail business, landscapers, etc.)
- ◆ Homeowners

Terminology

- ◆ HOST PLANT – Koch's postulates completed and plants are confirmed as hosts by USDA.
- ◆ ASSOCIATED HOST PLANT - Koch's postulates incomplete. Often plants submitted from European scientists.

New Federal Order

- ◆ Became Effective January 10, 2005
- ◆ Includes Host and Associated Host Stock From:
 - California
 - Oregon
 - Washington

Federal Order



- ◆ Federal Order is not a true P. ramorum-free certification program.
- ◆ In reality, plants shipped are certified to be in compliance with federal regulations, Not P. ramorum free.

Federal Order Provides Limited Protection To Receiving States

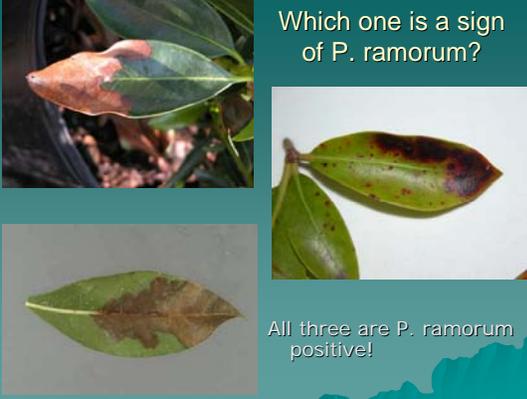
- ◆ Key areas:
 - Nursery Inspections
 - Host & Associated Host Lists
 - Regulatory Restrictions

Requirements

- ◆ Nurseries that ship Host & Associated Host Plants must be inspected annually for *P. ramorum* symptoms.
 - VISUAL Inspection for symptoms
 - Minimum 40 samples collected per site.

Inspection Process

- ◆ Visual Inspection
 - Based on symptoms
 - ◆ Con- Pathogen is not active year round. *P. ramorum* is “dormant” during hot, dry periods.
 - ◆ Con- Symptoms vary drastically between species and even varieties



Which one is a sign of *P. ramorum*?

All three are *P. ramorum* positive!

Inspection Process (cont.)

- ◆ Visual Inspection (cont.)
 - ◆ Con- Inspector bias / Narrow focus of inspection and sampling procedures.
 - ◆ Con- Symptoms often masked by Fungicides
 - ◆ Con- Fungicides may result in “False” negative lab tests

California Results

- ◆ 7 nurseries tested positive for *P. ramorum* in 2004.
- ◆ 19 nurseries tested positive for *P. ramorum* in 2005.
 - Officials are unsure how *P. ramorum* is moving to these nurseries.

Host & Assoc. Host List

- ◆ INCOMPLETE!
 - No systematic screening method of adding host plants.
 - Unrestricted movement of plants until included on the Host or Assoc. Host list
 - Plants are added to the list when an infected specimen is found in nature or nursery setting

Host & Assoc. Host (cont.)

- 15 plants (2002)
- 59 plants (2004)
- 68 Plants (2005)
- ◆ USDA may add additional hosts soon.

Host & Assoc. Host (cont.)

- ◆ USDA has indicated amending the Host list to include 10 new species. Possible candidates are:
 - *Acer pseudoplatanus* (Planetree Maple)
 - *Magnolia stellata* (Star Magnolia)
 - *Magnolia x loebneeri* (Loebner Magnolia)
 - *Magnolia x soulangeana* (Saucer or Japanese Magnolia)

State Regulatory Issues

- ◆ Limited Authority
 - SEC. 436. Plant Protection Act of 2000
 - ◆ States may not supersede any regulation issued by the Secretary of Agriculture to regulate the interstate movement of any plant pest.

Why Should Georgia be Concerned?

- ◆ Environmental issues
- ◆ Trade Restrictions
 - Canada
 - European Union (representing 25 countries)

Georgia Concerns (cont.)

- ◆ Federal Order Expires January 2008.
 - Interstate restrictions?
 - Unless Continued by USDA-APHIS-PPQ, each state would be free to regulate movement of *P. ramorum* host stock (or genera)

What Happens if *P. ramorum* is Detected at My Nursery?

- ◆ USDA Protocols Are Activated.
 - The “Block” of plants testing positive will be destroyed.
 - The block will be considered contiguous until there is a 2 meter break (approx. 6 ½ feet) of either no plants or no hosts or associated plants.

P. ramorum Detection (cont.)

- ◆ Buffer Zone
 - Area identified as a 10 meter (approx. 33 feet) radius from the destruction block
 - Host & Assoc. Host plants within the Buffer Zone will be prohibited from movement for at least 90 days.

P. ramorum Detection (cont.)

- ◆ Actual hold time may last longer than 90 calendar days.
 - 90 day period must consist of conducive environmental conditions when climate conditions are favorable to disease symptom expression.

P. ramorum Detection (cont.)

- ◆ NURSERIES THAT SHIP INTERSTATE
 - All genera of host plants and associated host plants must be held until delimitation within the nursery is complete.

Georgia

- ◆ 2004 Trace-forward Findings
 - 14 Businesses & 3 homeowners had plants to test positive for P. ramorum
- ◆ 2005 Random Sampling
 - 4 businesses have had plants to test positive for P. ramorum

Industry Actions?

- ◆ Do Nothing
 - Continued importation of P. ramorum infected plant material
 - ◆ Business owners continue to have infected plants destroyed
 - ◆ Infected plants continue to be introduced into Georgia's environment

Industry Actions (cont.)

- ◆ Be Proactive
 - What are you willing to do to reduce your risk?
 - What is your acceptable risk?

◆ Program Title: Sudden Oak Death

◆ Course Number: R05-338

◆ Available Credit Hours

– Category 23: 2 Hours

– Category 24: 2 Hours

– Private: 2 Hours